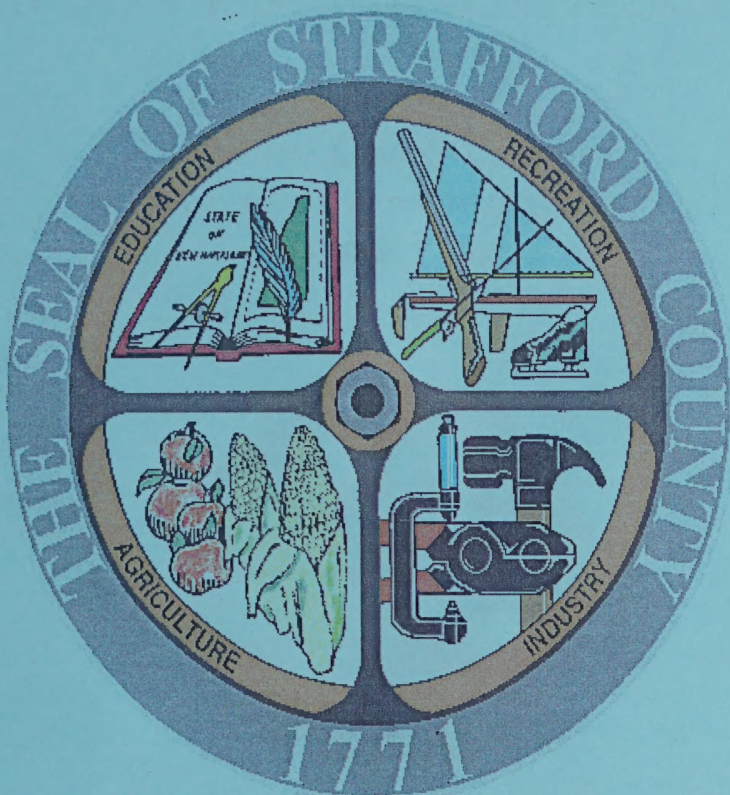


NHamp
F
42
.58
2003

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT



of the Commissioners, Treasurer,
Other County Officers and the
Strafford County Delegation
**For the Year Ending
December 31, 2003**

SPEND A DAY
AT THE STRAFFORD COUNTY COMPLEX

Recreational Activities List
Strafford County Complex
County Farm Crossroads
Dover, N.H.



*Courtesy of Strafford County Commissioners
George Maglaras, Ron Chagnon, & Cal Schroeder*

--Where the City Ends, and the County Begins--

ATV's

The use of ATV's is by permission of the County Commissioners only.

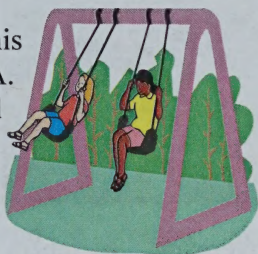


Agricultural Land Lease

The County leases several acres of land to a local farmer in order to keep the land open and agricultural. The fields are hayed two to three times a year, and several acres are planted with crops.

Betty Stowell Memorial Playground

Dedicated to long-time employee Betty Stowell, this playground is located adjacent to the William A. Grimes Strafford County Justice and Administration Building. Betty was a long-time advocate for children and youth and this playground serves as a testament to her dedication and loyalty to children.



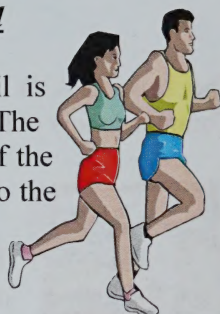
Bluebird Housing



The bluebird boxes are a product of Strafford County/UNH Cooperative Extension workshops with youth and adults to teach participants how to build birdhouses. Over the years bluebird house kits were crafted by the staff at the Division of Forests and Lands, Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth. Volunteers have been responsible for the care and maintenance of the 44 birdhouses. Some houses are occupied by bluebirds, while others house tree swallows.

Cathy Schiro-O'Brien Cross Country Running Trail

The Cathy Schiro-O'Brien Cross Country Running Trail is open for area high school cross-country teams to practice. The trail is approximately one mile long and is an extension of the Cocheco River Trail, running through the fields adjacent to the Rest Home.



Cocheco River Canoe Launch

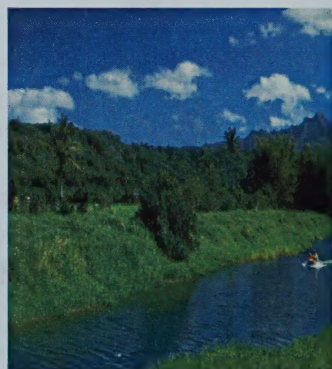


Through a grant written by staff at the Natural Resources Conservation Service in collaboration with Strafford County/UNH Cooperative Extension for the Strafford County Commissioners, a canoe launch was installed at the County Farm, accessing the Cocheco River for canoes and kayaks. Funds from the Department of Environmental Resources, along with contributing resources from the County provided a “one of its kind” canoe launch while protecting

the riverbank. Members from the UNH Cooperative Extension 4-H club, Strafford County Active Teens, also assisted in the installation.

Cocheco River Trail

The Cocheco River Trail is a self-guided nature trail that weaves along the Cocheco River, by the old Covered Bridge, goes past at the Alms House Monument, with the names of those who perished in a fire at there in 1891 etched on its panels and loops back to the Riverside Rest Home parking lot. It is a beautiful walk through the woods to take with your kids after a picnic by the river.



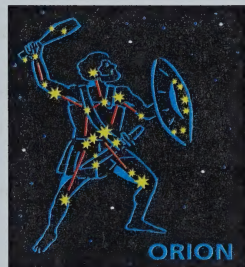


Conservation Easement

Over 219 acres of the 290 acres of County land are protected by a conservation easement with SPNHF, Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests, signed in 2002 by the Commissioners to protect the County lands from future development.

Hunting

Several years ago, a compromise was reached between hunters and non-hunters regarding hunting on County land. Since that time, hunting has been allowed on County property by permission only. Hunter identification cards are available through the Commissioners office, 259 County Farm Road, Dover, New Hampshire, 603.742.1458.



Osprey Nesting Platform



Photo Courtesy of Fosters Daily Democrat

Project Osprey is a program designed to enhance the osprey population recovery and to promote greater public awareness of the importance of healthy ecosystems. The Project is an initiative of Public Service of New Hampshire, the Audubon Society and New Hampshire Fish and Game. With the assistance of students from the University of New Hampshire, through the direction of the UNH Cooperative Extension, and local businesses and organizations, an osprey platform was installed atop a 64-foot pine tree, located about a half mile behind the Strafford County jail. In May of 2004, ospreys were spotted in the area, and two weeks later, the birds were incubating eggs on the nest. One of the chicks was parented to maturity. The County farm site is the 10th nest site in the state created by people specifically for ospreys since Project Osprey's partnership began in April 2000. There are now 33 nesting sites in New Hampshire.

Paul J. Dumont Youth Campground

Strafford County, in cooperation with the Strafford County/UNH Cooperative Extension office, and with the assistance of the Thomas/Dumont families and their friends, designed and developed the Paul J. Dumont Youth Campground on County property in Dover. This rustic campground and recreational facility is available to youth groups for teaching camping and outdoor skills, giving something back to the land, and HAVING FUN! If your youth group is looking for a place to go camping, check out these features:

- The campground sits serenely on the banks of the Cocheco River as it passes through the County forestland
- Designed to accommodate primitive camping for youth groups accompanied by adults
- Easily accommodates up to fifty (50) campers.
- Natural amphitheater
- Accessible by canoe or flat-bottomed boat
- Free
- For more information, call 742-1458.



Pop Warner Football League

In the Commissioners continuing efforts to provide diversion and recreational activities for the youth of the area, as well as a safe environment to play, signed a lease with Pop Warner Football League in 2002. The complex consists of several football fields for practice and games, on nearly 2 acres of land that have been leased from Strafford County directly adjacent to the Strafford County Courthouse. It has been said that these are the best fields in the state.



Photo Courtesy of Fosters Daily Democrat

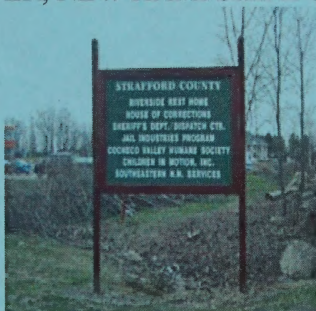
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES AT THE
STRAFFORD COUNTY COMPLEX, CALL THE
STRAFFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

603.742.1458

603.743.4407 (fax)

Web Address: <http://www.co.straftord.nh.us/>

WILLIAM A. GRIMES STRAFFORD COUNTY
JUSTICE & ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
259 COUNTY FARM ROAD
DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03820





Strafford County Complex

*Aerial Photography Courtesy of
Bambi Miller
Strafford County Soil Conservation District
October 2004*

W Hamp
F
42
.58
2003

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

*of the Commissioners, Treasurer,
Other County Officers
and the Strafford County Delegation*

BARRINGTON
DOVER
DURHAM
FARMINGTON
LEE
MADBURY
MIDDLETON
MILTON
NEW DURHAM
ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
SOMERSWORTH
STRAFFORD

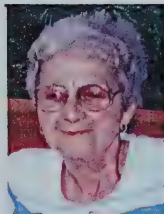
For the Year Ending
December 31, 2003



Strafford County
William A. Grimes
Justice & Administration Building

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

THE 2003 STRAFFORD COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT IS LOVINGLY DEDICATED TO MRS. BETTY STOWELL LONG-TIME COUNTY EMPLOYEE AND FRIEND



Betty was hired as a County employee in 1981, merging her former position with the Dover Housing Authority, and thus creating the Strafford County Information and Referral Service. Betty also worked with the District Courts in Juvenile matters as a Case Manager, assisting families in crisis, utilizing community services, providing home studies and when necessary, identifying out-of-home placements. She worked closely with the late Honorable Richard F. Cooper from the Rochester District Court, whom she admired and respected immensely.

Through her involvement with all the District Courts, she created the Crisis Home Program, and organized a host of volunteer homes, willing to take children at no cost, for up to thirty days.

When Betty's role as Case Manager diminished, she again responded to the needs of families in crisis and developed the Strafford County Family Intervention and Mediation Program. This unique program received recognition throughout the State of New Hampshire. Her work later extended into the Superior and Probate Courts. In 1995, she was certified as a Guardian Ad Litem, representing the best interest of children. Working primarily as a Guardian Ad Litem with the Strafford County Probate Court was extremely rewarding and fulfilling for her and she continued this work until her retirement in 2003.

Through her work in the court system there was yet another need identified and the Strafford County Supervised Visitation and Co-Parenting Program was developed. This program provided a safe and neutral place for child/parent visits. Betty was a pivotal force in the development of the programs offered through Strafford County. She not only "talked the talk," but she "walked the walk." She worked long hours helping families in need, never considering what she did a job, but a passion, and her door was always open.

Betty wore "many hats" in her career, always with the focus on families and youth. She was an avid reader and her thirst for knowledge was insatiable. She attended countless workshops and conferences that contributed to her skills as a family advocate.

As her health began to fail, Betty never wavered. If you asked her how she was feeling, she would always respond, "I'm hanging in there." She focused her attention on others, which distracted her from her own physical pain. Through it all, she never lost her sense of humor or her infectious laugh.

She never wanted, expected or sought public acknowledgement, preferring, as she would say "the quiet of her corner office." Her reward was receiving a telephone call, a letter or a visit from a family or young adult from years past. It is not surprising that many of the families she came to know through her work have remained in contact with her over the years.

To have known her was a privilege and an honor. The depth and breadth of her influence on others was profound and immeasurable. She tirelessly dedicated her life to helping others, never giving a thought to her own needs. She was always there when needed and will always be "Hanging in there" in our hearts forever. Regrettably, Betty passed away on June 6, 2004. She will truly be missed.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedication to Mrs. Betty Stowell.....	i
Strafford County Officers & Delegation	1 - 2
County Commissioner's Report	3 - 4
County Treasurer's Reports	5 - 11
County Attorney's Report	12 - 15
County Sheriff's Report.....	16
County Register of Deeds Report	17 - 18
Riverside Rest Home Administrator's Report	19 - 20
County House of Corrections Report.....	21 - 28
Human Service Department Report.....	29
UNH/Cooperative Extension Reports	30 - 36
Minutes of County Delegation Meetings.....	37 - 58
Directory for Strafford County & Cities & Towns	59 - 60

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

STRAFFORD COUNTY OFFICERS 2003- 2004

COMMISSIONERS

George Maglaras, Chairman* Dover, N.H.
Ronald R. Chagnon, Vice Chairman Farmington, N.H.
Calvin E. Schroeder, Clerk Strafford, N.H.

TREASURER

Pamela J. Arnold* Milton, N.H.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Raymond F. Bower Lee, N.H.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Janice K. Rundles Lee, N.H.

COUNTY SHERIFF

Wayne Estes* Milton, N.H.

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Leo Lessard* Milton, N.H.

REGISTER OF PROBATE

Kimberly S. Quint* Dover, N.H.

JUDGE OF PROBATE

Gary R. Cassavechia Rochester, N.H.

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

Julie Howard Newmarket, N.H.

NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR

Raymond F. Bower Lee, N.H.

CORRECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR

Warren Dowaliby Dover, N.H.

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR

Cheryl A. Moulton Berwick, M.E.

MEDICAL REFEREES Dover, N.H.

CHAPLAINS Ecumenical Services Provided

COUNTY PHYSICIANS

Edwin Charle, M.D. Somersworth, N.H.
Patrick Clary, M.D. Somersworth, N.H.
Lawrence Sanders, M.D. Somersworth, N.H.
Timothy Wargo, M.D. Somersworth, N.H.

**Elected Positions*

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

STRAFFORD COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

2003 – 2004

Russ Albert.....	Rochester, N.H.
Al Bemis.....	Rochester, N.H.
Roger Berube*.....	Somersworth, N.H.
David Bickford.....	New Durham, N.H.
Julie Brown*.....	Rochester, N.H.
Frank Callaghan, Chairman*.....	Rochester, N.H.
Sam Cataldo*.....	Farmington, N.H.
Packy Campbell.....	Farmington, N.H.
Irene Creteau*.....	Rochester, N.H.
Patricia Dunlap.....	Rochester, N.H.
Tim Easson.....	Farmington, N.H.
Anne Grassie, Clerk*.....	Rochester, N.H.
Michael Harrington.....	Strafford, N.H.
Richard Heon.....	Somersworth, N.H.
Roland P. Hofemann.....	Dover, N.H.
Jeff Hollinger.....	Dover, N.H.
Nancy Johnson.....	Middleton, N.H.
Naida Kaen.....	Lee, N.H.
Sandra Keans, Vice Chairman*.....	Rochester, N.H.
William Knowles*.....	Dover, N.H.
Joe Miller.....	Durham, N.H.
George Musler.....	Barrington, N.H.
Cliff Newton*.....	Rochester, N.H.
Arthur Pelletier*.....	Dover, N.H.
Deanna Rollo*.....	Rollinsford, N.H.
Emma Rous.....	Durham, N.H.
Peter Schmidt.....	Dover, N.H.
David Scott.....	Dover, N.H.
Marjorie Smith.....	Durham, N.H.
Clair Snyder*.....	Somersworth, N.H.
Judith Spang.....	Durham, N.H.
Kathleen N. Taylor*.....	Dover, N.H.
Kathrine Taylor.....	Dover, N.H.
James Twombly.....	Rochester, N.H.
Dennis Vachon*.....	Strafford, N.H.
Janet Wall*.....	Madbury, N.H.
Phyllis Woods.....	Dover, N.H.

*Denotes Executive Committee Member

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2003 began at a time of financial uncertainty for Strafford County. The State of New Hampshire/Strafford County financial relationship continued to be challenged due to there being no Medicaid reimbursement rate increase for Strafford County's Riverside Rest Home for the 5th year in a row. The result is that the increasing costs for maintaining the continued operation of Riverside Rest Home are borne by the Strafford County taxpayer. These increasing costs are compounded by necessary wage adjustments to combat the severe nursing shortage and increasing cost in health insurance benefits.

Despite these financial challenges, Strafford County operations continued to be solid in 2003. Progress continues to be made in the construction of the new Strafford County House of Corrections, with a 2004 opening date expected. Riverside Rest Home enjoyed a deficiency free State inspection and resident/family satisfaction continues to be very high.

We continue to try and find new and more efficient ways to provide Court services. As 2002 ended, the Strafford County House of correction only had two nurses in their employ. This issue, plus the unchecked spiraling of inmate medical costs, forced us to privatize the medical coverage at the House of Corrections. Prime-Care from Pennsylvania was the successful vendor and now provides the County with an HMO-type medical program. A detailed cost analysis showed financial savings for the County.

We seized the opportunity presented with the retirement of Jail Superintendent David Funk, to reorganize the management structure of the Department of Corrections by eliminating a management position and reducing the rank structure of our inmate classification department. This was accomplished within Federal standards. We are confident that with the leadership of Superintendent Warren Dowaliby, Assistant Superintendent In Charge of Security Della Rollins, and Assistant Superintendent In Charge of Community Corrections Sid Bird, we have the leadership team in place to complement the well-designed facility.

Further, we took some of the cost savings from the restructuring of the House of Corrections and expanded our Community Corrections program. We are now supervising between fifty and sixty (50-60) convicted and sentenced and pre-trial accused offenders in the community. The net cost of this program is approximately twenty percent (20%) of what it would cost to house these same people in the House of Corrections.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our County employees, who continue to perform their duties in an exemplary manner. A special thanks to all Department Heads, Elected and Appointed Officials, and the dedicated volunteers at the Jail, the Rest Home, and the Human Services Department for their continued service to the residents of Strafford County. Their loyalty and dedication help keep costs down and the level of service high.

Respectfully submitted,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

George Maglaras, Chairman
Ronald R. Chagnon, Vice Chairman
Calvin E. Schroeder, Clerk



Cal Schroeder, Clerk

Ron Chagnon, Vice Chairman

George Maglaras, Chairman

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks to everyone that contributes to the operations of the County by serving on a board, a committee, and especially to all the citizens who take time to participate in County government affairs. I thank all the departments for their courtesy and cooperation. I especially wish to thank the Commissioners for their support and insight on the Jail project. We worked very closely to ensure that the proceeds of the bond issue were invested safely. Our very favorable bond rating is critical to our receiving such an attractive financing rate in the investment community.

I continue to make a determined effort to visit and network with all the communities in our County and with all the counties in New Hampshire. I have continued to be the Treasurer who is not just in the office, but also out and about in our County.

The County's funds in all accounts continue to be fully protected by collateralized securities held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

In closing, I wish to reiterate my appreciation to the County Delegation for their support. This cooperative atmosphere allows the best possible service to all the taxpayers of Strafford County.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela J. Arnold
Strafford County Treasurer

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 APPROPRIATIONS

<u>JUSTICE & ADMINISTRATION</u>	<u>2003 APPROPRIATION</u>
Administration	287,117.00
County Attorney	853,499.00
Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit	230,593.00
Register of Deeds.....	449,139.00
Sheriff	921,519.00
Dispatch	298,862.00
Medical Examiner	21,000.00
J&A Maintenance	300,365.00
Human Services.....	9,385,497.00
Court Jester Café	65,653.00
Department of Corrections.....	4,722,982.00
Jail Industries Program Contracts	3.00
Jail Industries Program	120,900.00
Cooperative Extension.....	174,604.00
Soil Conservation District.....	48,250.00
Debt Accounts.....	1,453,524.00
Insurances-J&A.....	1,323,257.00
Community Action Program, Inc.....	65,000.00
Avis Goodwin Community Health Center	45,000.00
Southeastern N.H. Service Corp.....	25,000.00
Strafford Nutrition Program (Meals on Wheels)	40,000.00
Great Bay Training.....	6,140.00
Child Care Association	45,000.00
Seacoast Task Force (A Safe Place)	15,000.00
Seacoast Hospice	17,000.00
Behavioral Health & Development Services.....	15,000.00
Your VNA and Hospice.....	66,000.00
Dover Adult Learning Center.....	32,500.00
Homemakers of Strafford County	60,000.00
Contracted Social Service Agencies Uncommitted Funds	1,822.00
County Convention	8,000.00
Employee Appreciation	2,500.00
Tuition Assistance.....	5,000.00
Contingency	35,777.00
Capital Expense-J&A & Deeds	<u>980,444.00</u>
TOTALS - J&A:.....	22,121,947.00

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 APPROPRIATIONS CONTINUED

<u>RIVERSIDE REST HOME</u>	<u>2003 APPROPRIATION</u>
Administration	897,002.00
Management Information Systems.....	102,508.00
Purchasing.....	97,271.00
Dietary.....	1,704,083.00
Nursing.....	5,927,235.00
Socio-Behavioral Unit.....	1,041,018.00
Resident Services.....	71,192.00
Maintenance.....	762,521.00
Laundry & Sewing.....	361,683.00
Housekeeping.....	579,351.00
Physician & Pharmacy	161,128.00
Staff Development	126,044.00
Physical Therapy.....	276,658.00
Activities	369,093.00
Occupational Therapy.....	19,924.00
Social Services	244,256.00
Insurances-RRH	2,084,683.00
Capital Expenses-RRH.....	<u>1,139,823.00</u>
TOTALS - RRH:.....	15,965,473.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:.....	38,087,420.00
REVENUES:	20,452,822.00
PRIOR YEAR SURPLUS:	630,000.00
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION:	17,004,598.00

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 ESTIMATED REVENUES

REVENUES	2003 ESTIMATE
RRH	14,603,813.00
Registry of Deeds	1,850,000.00
Sheriff-Deputy Fees	210,000.00
Leased Office Space	495,396.00
Leased Land	2,500.00
Accounting Service	118,450.00
Bailiff Reimbursement.....	146,000.00
Registry of Deeds Equipment Account.....	60,600.00
Precision Assembly	34,000.00
Human Service 6% Grant	322,443.00
Jail Laundry Contract.....	20,000.00
Bond Proceeds - J&A	903,994.00
FMAP Funds.....	242,000.00
Jail Income	650,000.00
Room & Board-HOC	13,500.00
Jail Industries Commissary	20,000.00
Interest Earned.....	230,490.00
Sewer Grant.....	3,370.00
Victim's Assistance Work Release	6,000.00
Correctional Industries	30,000.00
Employee Cont.-Health - J&A.....	143,035.00
Insurance Refunds	10,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	60,000.00
GAL Income-Human Services.....	1,000.00
Dispatch Fees	1,000.00
Meal Income-Court Jester Café.....	65,000.00
Drug Rebate	<u>210,231.00</u>
TOTALS:	20,452,822.00

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 FINANCIAL REPORT OF STRAFFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Cash and Temporary Investments.....	3,369,258.00
Accounts Receivable and Revenues	569,635.00
Due From Other Governments.....	.00
Due From Enterprise Funds.....	5,951,240.00
Due From Other Funds.....	248,102.00
Security Deposit	13,750.00
Prepaid Expenses	<u>6,682.00</u>
 TOTAL ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS	 <u>10,158,667.00</u>

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses.....	3,550,193.00
Deferred Revenue00
Due to Other Funds	<u>248,102.00</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES:.....	 <u>3,798,295.00</u>

FUND BALANCES

Reserved	2,957,487.00
Unreserved, reported in:	
General Fund	3,336,148.00
Capital Projects Fund	<u>66,737.00</u>
 TOTAL FUND BALANCES.....	 <u>6,360,372.00</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	 <u>10,158,667.00</u>

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 FINANCIAL REPORT OF STRAFFORD COUNTY PROPRIETARY FUND BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash and Temporary Investments.....	1,500.00
Accounts Receivable and Accrued Revenue.....	1,276,473.00
Due From Other Governments.....	2,399,156.00
Inventories.....	53,617.00
Prepaid Expenses.....	6,303.00
Total Current Assets.....	<u>3,737,049.00</u>

Non-Current Assets:

Land.....	207,983.00
Buildings and Improvements.....	6,564,675.00
Equipment and Vehicles.....	1,813,486.00
Less Accumulated Depreciation.....	<u>-5,352,064.00</u>
Total Non Current Assets.....	<u>3,234,080.00</u>

TOTAL ASSETS.....6,971,129.00

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses.....	265,319.00
Due to Other Funds.....	5,951,240.00
Bonds Payable, Current Portion.....	<u>235,362.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities.....	<u>6,451,921.00</u>

Non-Current Liabilities:

Accrued Compensated Absences.....	470,533.00
Bonds Payable, non-current portion.....	<u>1,725,989.00</u>
Total Non-Current Liabilities.....	<u>2,196,522.00</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES.....8,648,443.00

NET ASSETS

Investment in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt.....	1,272,729.00
Unrestricted.....	<u>-2,950,043.00</u>

TOTAL NET ASSETS.....-1,677,314.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS.....6,971,129.00

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING DEBT-Year Ending December 31, 2003

<u>Date of Issue & Maturity</u>	<u>2003 Principal Payment</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/03</u>
2002-2012 Capital Improvements	140,000.00	992,838.00
2002-2023 Jail Project	0.00	20,000,000.00
2002-2012 Refinance CIP & Sewer Projects	63,750.00	560,000.00
2003-2013 Capital Improvements	0.00	2,012,387.00
Total Outstanding Debt:	203,750.00	23,565,225.00

2003 COUNTY TAX APPORTIONMENT

<u>City/Town</u>	<u>Proportion of Tax</u>	<u>Amount of Tax</u>
Barrington	7.4606%	1,268,648.00
Dover	27.2819%	4,639,183.00
Durham	9.0491%	1,538,763.00
Farmington	4.1481%	705,368.00
Lee	4.5230%	769,114.00
Madbury	1.8454%	313,807.00
Middleton	1.4021%	238,417.00
Milton	3.5842%	609,476.00
New Durham	3.6992%	629,038.00
Rochester	21.3382%	3,628,474.00
Rollinsford	2.6266%	446,649.00
Somersworth	8.6817%	1,476,281.00
Strafford	4.3599%	741,380.00
Totals:	100.0000%	\$17,004,598.00

AUDITORS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS Year Ended December 31, 2003

Status of Prior Year's Findings (2002): There were no findings in the year 2002. Current Year's Findings: There are no current year findings.

Ron Beaulieu Company, P.C., Certified Public Accountants
2003 Strafford County General Purpose Financial Statements as of December 31, 2003, Together with Auditor's Report Including Single Audit Act

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD COUNTY ATTORNEY

The Office of the Strafford County Attorney is responsible for overseeing the investigation and prosecution of all criminal cases in the County. The County Attorney also serves as general legal counsel for Strafford County. The primary responsibility of the office, and the bulk of its workload, is the prosecution of criminal cases. By statute, RSA 7:6 and 7:34, the County Attorney serves as the Attorney General's representative in Strafford County, for the purpose of "enforc[ing] the criminal laws of the State." Thus, the County Attorney represents the interests of the State of New Hampshire in all criminal cases in Strafford County (with the exception of murder cases, over which the Attorney General's Office has exclusive jurisdiction). This function involves directing and/or reviewing criminal investigations undertaken by local and State Police; presenting evidence before the Grand Jury; reviewing and prosecuting misdemeanor cases that are appealed to the Superior Court; researching and responding to motions filed with the Court; attending depositions of witnesses and pretrial motion hearings; preparing witnesses for deposition, hearing, or trial; presenting the State's case at trial; arguing the State's position at the sentencing hearing; and representing the State's position in various post-conviction proceedings, such as sentence review, motions for new trial, and habeas corpus petitions.

The second responsibility of the County Attorney is to serve as legal counsel for Strafford County. This obligation also has its origin in RSA 7:34. To fulfill this duty, the County Attorney may, upon request of the County Commissioners, represent the County's interest in civil litigation in State and/or Federal Court. Also, upon request, the County Attorney will advise County officials on legal matters and act as a legal resource for the County's legislative delegation, advising its members of the legal implications of proposed legislation.

The County Attorney has other duties that are prescribed by statute, including responding to untimely, suspicious, or unattended deaths and ordering that autopsies be performed where appropriate in such cases; initiating extradition proceedings to effectuate the return of fugitives or witnesses to this State; and representing the interests of other States in proceedings to return fugitives or witnesses to them for criminal proceedings. In addition, as an elected public official, the County Attorney has a duty to the people of Strafford County, and to the judicial system, to improve the quality of justice and assist in expanding public awareness and understanding of our legal system. The County Attorney meets this responsibility by speaking before civic and public organizations concerned with understanding and improving the quality of justice in Strafford County, and by serving on committees and boards devoted to improving the legal system and law enforcement policies and procedures. The County Attorney is also actively involved in promoting legislation designed to improve the criminal justice system.

The County Attorney's Office operates a Victim Assistance Program that assists victims of and witnesses to crime in dealing with the criminal justice system. This program is designed to reduce the confusion and fear that people – especially children and domestic and sexual assault victims – often experience when they become involved with the criminal trial process for the first time. The job of the victim-witness assistants is to inform victims and witnesses about every phase of the criminal prosecution, and to insure that victims have input into the disposition of the cases involving them. The Victim Assistance Program in Strafford County is unique in the State in that the director and

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

coordinator of the program are trained in conducting interviews with children who are victims of abuse and adult victims of sexual assault. To protect such victims from multiple interviews, and to protect the integrity of the investigation, Strafford County has long followed a protocol requiring that such victims be interviewed only once, on videotape, in the County Attorney's office. This protocol has been successful in protecting victims from being "re-victimized" by the court process. It has also been an invaluable tool in screening cases that should not be prosecuted and laying the groundwork for a successful prosecution in cases that are pursued.

The Strafford County Attorney has a Chief Investigator on staff, whose primary responsibility is to conduct any follow-up investigation required on felony cases. The Chief Investigator assists the office's prosecutors in trial preparations where necessary, including locating witnesses for trial. The Chief Investigator has also conducted investigations in public integrity cases that have been referred to the County by the Attorney General's office, and for local police departments within the County where there is a conflict that prevents the local agency from undertaking the investigation. In addition, the Investigator has conducted internal investigations for the County at the request of the County Commissioners. The Chief Investigator also coordinates and assists in conducting training programs offered by the County Attorney's office to all law enforcement agencies in the County.

The County Attorney's office operates a Domestic Violence Unit, which consists of two full-time prosecutors, two victim-witness assistants (and one Americorps volunteer), and an administrative assistant. The Domestic Violence Unit prosecutes all misdemeanor cases of domestic abuse in District Court for 12 of the 13 police departments in the County. The Unit is part of a broader Domestic Violence Project for Strafford County, the goal of which is to utilize a multi-disciplinary approach to the problem of domestic violence by all involved agencies, including the Department of Corrections, A Safe Place, and the Strafford County Family Violence Council.

The Strafford County Attorney's office is the only County Attorney's office in the State that has a countywide vertical prosecution program for all felonies. As soon as a felony arrest is made in the County, the case is handled by the County Attorney's office. There are two Assistant County Attorneys available by pager and cell phone at all times to facilitate notification of felony arrests. These attorneys work with the police departments on initial charging and bail decisions, and handle the arraignments and probable cause hearings in District Court. With the County Attorney's office involved in felony cases earlier in the process, consistency in the handling of these cases has improved, and the flow of cases from District Court to Superior Court has become smoother and speedier.

The County Attorney's office is active in advising local and County officials in many areas of the criminal law. As set forth above, the County Attorney continues a policy of having an Assistant County Attorney available 24 hours a day to advise and assist the County's 14 police departments, Troop A of the State Police, and the Drug Task Force on legal issues that arise in the course of their investigations. The County Attorney, the Deputy County Attorney, and the Assistant County Attorneys make themselves available to address community and law enforcement groups on a variety of subjects, including: Child Abuse, Sexual Assault, Drug offenses, Motor Vehicle offenses, the workings of the Criminal Justice System, and many other topics of interest and concern to the community. The County Attorney's office continues to offer law enforcement trainings as often as

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

possible for police departments within the County; as well as similar trainings, on request, for Correctional Officers from the Strafford County House of Corrections.

During 2003, the County Attorney's office received a federal grant to fund the Domestic Violence Project Coordinator position, and a Domestic Violence Investigator. The Investigator's work involves assisting the County's police departments in conducting follow-up on domestic violence cases, and assisting the attorneys in locating witnesses and otherwise preparing the domestic violence cases for trial in the District Courts. This new Domestic Violence grant also funds a special project in the City of Rochester to videotape domestic violence scenes and victim/witness statements.

In 2003, the County Attorney's office has been involved in other initiatives. It is cooperating with the efforts of the Superior Court to obtain federal funding to start a Drug Court in Strafford County. If such funding is received, it will be utilized to take criminal cases that are non-violent and arise from drug addiction out of the regular court system and into a system where treatment and cure of the addiction is the focus. This is part of continuing efforts by many partners in the criminal justice system to reduce incarceration rates without jeopardizing community safety. Also during 2003, the County Attorney's office applied for federal funds to create a Family Justice Center for Strafford County. The federal government, through the Justice Department, has set aside enough money to fund 12 such Centers nationwide, to serve as pilot projects for the concept of providing all the services that a victim of domestic violence might need in one location. Strafford County, because it already has significant programs in effect to combat domestic violence, is viewed as a strong candidate for this exciting new initiative. Our application has received support from the United States Attorney for New Hampshire and Senator Judd Gregg. Finally, in 2003, the County Attorney's office, in cooperation with other community partners, began work on an application for funds being made available in each county through the Attorney General's office, to start a Child Advocacy Center. The purpose of this Center will be to provide a place where all children who are alleged victims of abuse or abusive crimes can be interviewed on videotape by a trained forensic interviewer.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

The following tables provide a summary of criminal case activity in 2003. All figures are provided courtesy of Julie Howard, the Clerk of the Strafford County Superior Court.

2003 SUMMARY OF SUPERIOR COURT CASE ACTIVITY STRAFFORD COUNTY ATTORNEY

<u>Case Type</u>	<u>Entries</u>	<u>Dispositions</u>
Felony	746	620
Misdemeanor	262	219
Violation	17	11
Other	176	149
Re-entries*	<u>1,144</u>	<u>1,080</u>
Totals	2,345	2,079

*Re-entries are closed cases in which new litigation has arisen, e.g., probation violations, re-trials following appeals, habeas corpus petitions, or motions for new trial.

2003 TRIAL ACTIVITY

<u>Total Trials</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Scheduled	285	63%
Reached	44	15%
Not reached	2	<1%
Continued	84	29%
Guilty Pleas	134	47%
Nol Prossed	13	5%
Remanded	18	6%
Diversion	5	2%
Other*	2	<1%

*Includes bench trials, dismissals, and cases where the defendant failed to appear.

Respectfully submitted
Janice K. Rundles
Strafford County Attorney

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

R.S.A. 104:5 Duties: He by himself or his deputies, shall serve and execute all writs and other precepts to him directed, issuing from lawful authority; and shall perform the duties of Crier of the Court. The Strafford County Sheriff's Office performs civil process service throughout the County, provides prisoner transports and security while in the Courtroom and has a responsibility for transporting Involuntary Emergency Admission (IEA) patients to their appropriate destination.

A Deputy has been assigned and is responsible for investigation and apprehension of fugitives from justice, felony *capias* and domestic and small claims warrants. The Sheriff's Office provides a search and rescue service for Strafford County with the use of the Bloodhound Unit Division. The dedication of this Division is instrumental in developing the potential of finding lost or runaway children and lost or missing elderly people. In addition, the Unit provides assistance to local Law Enforcement Agencies in criminal matters and the apprehension of suspects.

The following is a breakdown of services provided and revenue returned to Strafford County in 2003:

Number of Prisoner Transports (courts/hospitals/etc):	3,703
Civil Process Revenue Returned to County:	\$126,000
Bailiff (AOC) Revenue Received from State:	121,025
Prisoner Security Revenue Received from State:	29,495
Juvenile Transport Revenue Received from State:	12,764
Prosecutor Revenue Received from Farmington, NH	20,237
Restitution Revenue Received from State	977
Highway Safety Grant Received from State	555
Outside Detail Revenue:	<u>34,644</u>
Total Return to Strafford County:	\$345,697
Sheriff's Office Operating Budget:	<u>\$908,033</u>
Cost to Strafford County Taxpayers:	\$562,336

The Sheriff's Office provides personnel who dispatch for Barrington Police and Ambulance, Rollinsford Police, Madbury Police, Milton Police, Farmington Police, Fire and Ambulance, New Durham Police, Middleton Police, Fire and Ambulance, Strafford Police and Lee Police. Additionally, Strafford County also provides secondary 911 Dispatch back up for the cities of Dover, Somersworth and Rochester.

The Sheriff's Office continues to update and modernize its recording systems to better serve the residents of Strafford County. I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks to the Strafford County Commissioners, Ray Bower, County Administrator, and my entire staff at the Strafford County Sheriff's Office for their continued assistance and support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wayne M. Estes, Sheriff
Strafford County Sheriff's Office

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

2003 was the most profitable year in the Registry's history and the Strafford County real estate economy was the strongest ever. So strong that all twelve (12) months of 2003 have set individual income records. The total value of the Strafford County real estate transactions were more than \$600,000,000 for 2003. Revenues for the Registry exceeded budgeted expenses by \$1,505,045 for the year 2003.

The Registry continues to build upon the new optical document imaging system. The public can now access our records through the Internet. We currently have more than forty (40) years of indexes and nineteen (19) years of images at our site, located at www.nhdeeds.com.

YEARLY FORECLOSURES 1991 THROUGH 2003

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Foreclosures</u>
1991	513
1992	391
1993	328
1994	271
1995	159
1996	160
1997	129
1998	87
1999	82
2000	40
2001	35
2002	38
2003	32

There has been a dramatic increase in the numbers of document recordings in the past thirteen years. Documents recorded at the Registry have gone from 16,403 in 1991 to 45,548 in 2003. These thirteen (13) years of recordings represent 54.54% of everything ever recorded in the Registry's 231-year history.

DOCUMENT RECORDING AND TRANSACTIONS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Documents</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Documents</u>
1991	16,403	1998	24,589
1992	18,798	1999	27,792
1993	19,139	2000	22,356
1994	19,129	2001	28,356
1995	15,912	2002	34,228
1996	17,827	2003	45,458
1997	19,066		

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

REVENUES

<u>Year</u>	<u>To State</u>	<u>To County</u>	<u>Total</u>
1991	\$1,977,391	\$ 463,461	\$ 2,440,852
1992	\$1,832,936	\$ 520,341	\$ 2,353,277
1993	\$1,674,373	\$ 540,896	\$ 2,215,269
1994	\$1,774,715	\$ 515,496	\$ 2,290,211
1995	\$1,722,451	\$ 453,342	\$ 2,175,793
1996	\$1,792,083	\$ 510,340	\$ 2,302,423
1997	\$2,111,521	\$ 542,686	\$ 2,654,207
1998	\$2,623,241	\$ 702,036	\$ 3,325,277
1999	\$3,945,457	\$ 772,870	\$ 4,718,327
2000	\$5,710,249	\$ 827,000	\$ 6,537,249
2001	\$6,593,361	\$1,190,535	\$ 7,783,896
2002	\$7,393,384	\$1,430,648	\$ 8,824,032
2003	\$9,056,575	\$1,967,045	\$11,023,620

The Deeds Office continues to update and modernize its recording systems and to fulfill the requirements of the laws that apply to functions of recording, retrieval, and security within the office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my staff, the Strafford County Legislative Delegation and my fellow County Elected Officials for their support and counsel.

Respectfully submitted,
Leo Lessard, Registrar of Deeds
Strafford County Registry of Deeds

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RIVERSIDE REST HOME ADMINISTRATOR

Riverside Rest Home is a 215-bed nursing facility established to care for the medically frail and elderly of Strafford County. Almost all of our residents are financially destitute due to the costs of medical care associated with their illness(es). As part of its operations, Riverside Rest Home manages a 20-bed unit dedicated to caring for people with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and a twenty-two (22)-bed unit for residents who are challenged by behavior problems. Our facility has an excellent reputation for the care given by our caring, professional staff.

Consistent with Riverside Rest Home's mission, we responded to many community crises in 2003. Riverside staff skillfully assisted with these emergencies by helping with placements with community-based services or in Riverside if necessary. This policy, as authored by the Strafford County Commissioners, offers Riverside Rest Home staff the flexibility to handle a wide range of clients with admission criteria based on "how safe" a citizen is in their current living situation.

I am pleased to report that the hard work of Riverside Rest Home's dedicated staff was recognized in 2003 with a "deficiencies free" State inspection. This is a great accomplishment as all aspects of nursing home operations are closely compared to nearly 500 pages of regulations. The Staff of Riverside deserve a great deal of recognition for this confirmation of the high quality care they provide.

Activities held throughout the year included:

- Holiday Celebrations with Party and Decorations on each Unit
- New Year's Party
- Super Bowl Party
- Valentine's Day Parties
- Winter Blahs Party
- St. Patrick's Day Party
- Participation in Memorial Day and Veterans Day Parades in Rochester
- National Nursing Home Week in May
- Pancake breakfast for staff, residents, and families
- New England Telephone Pioneer Party
- Family Resident Non-Alcoholic Cocktail Party
- Carnival Day of Fun Activities
- Ice Cream Smorgasbord
- Indian Head Resort
- Trip to Mohegan Sun Casino
- Visits to Several State Parks and Beaches
- Concerts on the Commons in Rochester, Prescott Park in Portsmouth, Cocheco Park in Dover
- Rochester Fair trips with 175 residents participating ★ Residents won over 210 ribbons for contest entries
- October Fest
- Halloween Party
- Trick or Treat with Children in Motion Day Care
- Christmas Fair & Bake Sale
- Good Old Sports once a month

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

- Bingo trips once a month
- Church services twice a week; Bible study once a week
- Eucharistic Ministerial Distribution involving new training program adopted by NH Diocese of Manchester
- Makeover morning once a month
- Planting vegetable and flower gardens
- Fishing trips
- Theater trips
- Boat Trips
- Ice Cream Trip
- Baseball games
- Resident Council and Dietary subcommittee meetings
- Sewing and art group, small group activities
- Exercise groups
- Clothing show
- Mentoring Programs at local schools:
 - ★Literacy volunteering at Woodman Park School in Dover
 - ★Phoenix Group at Rochester Middle School
- Weekly Programs with Children in Motion Day Care for Residents and children
- Canobie Lake Trip
- Funtown Trip
- Christmas Tree Shop Trips
- Men's & Ladies Groups
- Summer Program with Happy Helpers Day Care
- Morning Coffees and Afternoon Teas
- Karaoke, live entertainment, shopping trips, dinners out to restaurants, movies, matinees, and many, many other activities on a daily and evening basis, seven days a week
- 30% of Residents Voted in Election – highest percentage of participation in many years

The revenue picture for Riverside Rest Home continues to be challenged. Despite having a reimbursement system based partially on how sick (acuity) a resident is, Riverside continues to be under-funded due to lack of State funding. The problem of New Hampshire State revenues/expenditures continues to come into play and affects Riverside's revenues by forcing across-the-board cuts as State budget figures are challenged. This system called "budget neutrality," cost Riverside well in excess of one million dollars in lost revenue in 2003.

In closing, I would like to recognize the excellent senior staff of Riverside Rest Home, particularly Melody Jones, Director of Administrative Services, Daralyn Stewart, RN, Director of Nursing and Related Services, and Tracy DiCicco, Assistant Director of Nursing, who have been very supportive during my tenure at Riverside. I would also like to thank the Strafford County Commissioners for providing guidance, direction, and support. With everyone's continued efforts, coupled with the support of the Strafford County Delegation, Riverside will continue to provide excellent care to the elderly of Strafford County.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymond F. Bower, Administrator
Riverside Rest Home

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

In the year 2003, the Strafford County Department of Corrections went through many changes: long time Strafford County Department of Corrections employee/Superintendent David E. Funk retired after 18 years of service; the construction of the new Department of Corrections is on-going and experiencing continual delays; and the Department took over the day to day management of the Community Corrections Program. I am pleased that despite all of these challenges, the department employees and I are more committed than ever to the continued success of the Department of Correction. We look forward to the opening of the new facility and to meeting whatever challenges lie ahead.

With the opening of the new facility will come an expansion of Strafford County's agreement for boarding inmates with the United States Marshall Service. This expanded agreement will produce revenue to offset the cost of jail operations to the taxpayer.

I look forward to the well-planned, coordinated and safe expansion of our Community Corrections Program. The continued operation of this endeavor is vital to proper inmate population management.

I am pleased to report that all Strafford County Correctional Officers completed the required training hours necessary to maintain their New Hampshire Association of Counties Certification. The primary focus of this training was Direct Supervision. This concept of watching inmates will be exclusively employed in the new Department of Correction.

As is customary in these annual reports, I have included the statistical information regarding Department of Corrections operations for your perusal:

Custody Report -- Monthly Daily Average Population For 2003

January	201.10	July	187.26
February	213.68	August	186.45
March	208.55	September	195.80
April	193.27	October	190.35
May	188.65	November	187.00
June	183.10	December	190.52

The average population for 2003 was 193.69. There were one thousand, eight hundred and eighty-two (1,882) males, four hundred and six (406) females, and twelve (12) others incarcerated in 2003. There were fifty-seven (57) females held for the following facilities:

New Hampshire State Prison	2
Rockingham County	23
Belknap County	1
Carroll County	8
Federal Bureau of Prisons	23

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

There were one hundred and ninety-eight (198) males incarcerated for the following facilities:

New Hampshire State Prison	46
Rockingham County	20
Hillsborough County	7
Carroll County	4
Federal Bureau of Prisons	121

2003 Offenses

Possession of Weapon	5	Possession of Firearm by Felon	1
Felon in Possession of Weapon	15	Armed Career Criminal	1
Contributing to Delinquency of Minor	2	Child Neglect	1
Violation of Protective Order	95	Unlawful Possession of Alcohol/Intox.	19
Prohibited Sales	7	Negligent Discharge of Firearm	1
Taking Without Owners Consent	10	Habitual Offender	92
Operating After Suspension	79	Conduct After Accident	18
False Reporting- Accidents	1	Operating Without A Valid License	9
Disobeying a Police Officer	32	Reckless Operation	7
Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)	43	DWI Second Offense	51
Aggravated DWI	21	Controlled Drug Act	115
Unauth. Prescription/Controlled Drug	1	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	1
Violation Permanent Restraining Order	5	Failure to Appear	160
Breach Bail Conditions	66	Fugitive from Justice	38
Criminal Liability/ Accomplice Robbery	3	Criminal Liability/ Accomplice Forgery	4
Conspiracy	5	First Degree Murder	2
Second Degree Murder	2	Manslaughter	1
First Degree Assault	12	Second Degree Assault	20
Simple Assault	293	Reckless Conduct	32
Criminal Threatening	89	Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault	59
Felonious Sexual Assault	14	Sexual Assault	4
Kidnapping	3	Criminal Restraint	5
False Imprisonment	8	Stalking	9
Interference with Custody	1	Criminal Mischief	72
Unauth. Use Propelled Vehicle/ Animal	4	Burglary	83
Possession of Burglary Tools	2	Criminal Trespass	68
Robbery	11	Theft by Misapplication	1
Theft by Unauthorized Taking	47	Theft by Deception	4
Theft by Extortion	3	Receiving Stolen Property	30
Theft of Services	2	Forgery	27
Issuing Bad Checks	7	Fraudulent Use/Credit Card	1
Endanger Welfare of Child	6	Non-Support	53
False Swearing	1	False Report to Law Enforcement	11
Witness Tampering	7	Falsifying Physical Evidence	1
Obstruct Government Administration	4	Obstruct Report of Crime	21

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 Offenses (continued)

Resisting Arrest/Detention	87	Hinder Apprehension/Prosecution	4
Taking of Firearm/Law Enforcement Off.	1	Escape	4
Bail Jumping	6	Assault by Prisoner	4
Riot	6	Willful Concealment	3
Shoplifting	8	Disorderly Conduct	22
Harassment	10	Loitering or Prowling	2
Indecent Exposure/Lewdness	5	Prostitution	3
Child Pornography	22	Obscene Material	4
Duty to Report	4	Sex Offender Registration	3
Violation Sentence/Probation/Parole	259	Failure to Make Restitution	15

Programs Report

Education: GED preparation and Adult Basic Education. Dover Adult Learning Center provided GED and Adult Educational classes two days each week for a total of 10 instructional hours per week.

Special Education: North County Education Foundation provided educational tutoring and mental health counseling for eligible special education students for a total of 7 hours per week of education and 7 hours per week of counseling services.

Volunteer Tutors: Dover Adult Learning Center provided a volunteer tutor for 2 hours weekly.

Education Attendance: 112 inmates received educational services. 45 attended 5 or fewer classes, 25 completed 5 to 10 classes and 42 completed more than 10 classes.

GED Exam: 28 inmates were administered the GED exam. 23 passed the exam and 5 did not pass. The pass rate for the year was 82%.

Tutoring: 7 inmates received volunteer tutoring services at the SCDOC. The average number of sessions was 6, with 3 inmates receiving 15 or more sessions.

Drug and Alcohol Counseling: SCDOC contracted with Southeastern New Hampshire Services to provide 11 hours per week of drug and alcohol counseling services.

Drug and Alcohol Attendance: 149 inmates received drug and alcohol counseling services. 76 completed 5 or fewer sessions, 25 completed 5 to 10 sessions, and 48 completed 10 or more sessions.

Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous: AA groups were held weekly this past year and NA groups were held bi-weekly. *Attendance data is not tracked by programs.*

Anger Management Training: SCDOC provided 1 hour per week of anger management training.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Anger Management Attendance: 132 inmates received anger management training. 89 completed 5 or fewer classes, 16 completed 5 to 10 classes, and 27 completed 10 or more classes.

Mental Health Counseling: SCDOC accepts master's level interns from UNH. This year 2 interns provided a total of 8 weekly counseling hours. SCDOC also received 6 weekly counseling hours from volunteer counselors.

Mental Health Counseling Attendance: 57 inmates received individual counseling through the programs department. 22 had fewer than 5 sessions, 15 received 5 to 10 sessions, and 20 received more than 10 sessions.

Vocational Services: SCDOC offered 12 hours per week of vocational services through grant funding.

Pre-Employment Program (PEPP): This program teaches inmates job search skills, helps them to prepare resumes and job applications and teaches job interview skills. This program is held weekly for a total of four hours.

Labor Room Program - Employment Security Program: This program provides direct employment assistance and placement into work release jobs through SCDOC and the New Hampshire Employment Office. This program is held weekly for a total of 8 hours.

Pre-Employment Program Attendance: 169 inmates attended PEPP class. 118 attended 5 or fewer classes, 31 completed 5 to 10 classes, and 20 attended 10 or more classes.

Labor Room Program - Employment Security Program Attendance: 67 inmates were enrolled in this labor room program. 28 were placed in jobs.

Work Release Program: SCDOC offers work release to court-approved inmates. There were a total of 57 inmates on work release for 2003. 27 of these inmates ended work release for various reasons listed below:

Discharged to Strafford County Academy	1
Discharged to Drug Treatment Program	1
Discharged to Strafford County Community Corrections Program	8
Termination of Work Release by SCDOC	10
Quit Job	1
Suspended by SCDOC	3
Reinstated by SCDOC	3
Paroled	2
Laid Off	1
Fired	3

Religious Services

Chaplain: SCDOC has 2 volunteer chaplains. The chaplains provide religious counseling and guidance to inmates for a total of up to 15 hours per week.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Chaplain Attendance: 81 inmates received formal religious counseling with the chaplains. 35 had 5 or fewer sessions, 37 had 5 to 10 sessions, and 9 had 10 or more sessions.

Bible Study: SCDOC currently hosts 4 non-denominational bible study groups per week and two Catholic services per week.

Bible Study Attendance: *Data is inconclusive.*

Internships: SCDOC hosted 6 interns in 2003. 3 interns were enrolled in the Justice Studies Program at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). During the academic year each of these interns provided 9 weekly hours of services. Duties included: Assistance with educational and recreational program, as well as administrative support. One intern assisted with inmate educational program for a total of 2 hours per week. Two interns assisted with inmate counseling services for a total of 6 hours per week.

School Tours/Diversion Program: SCDOC provides tours for schools and community organizations. These tours consist of a general tour of the facility and a question and answer period with carefully screened inmate volunteers.

The Diversion Program consists of court-ordered youth touring the facility and speaking to inmate volunteers about the realities of incarceration as a means to dissuade the youth from further criminal behavior.

SCDOC conducted 41 diversion tours in 2003. In August of 2003 a ruling prohibiting these types of tours was issued from Federal District Court. Unfortunately, this has caused the cancellation of this valuable program at this time.

School Tours: SCDOC hosted tours from Dover High, Farmington High and Middle Schools, Spaulding High, Spaulding Alternative School, Dover Alternative School, and Somersworth Alternative School in 2003.

Organization Tours: SCDOC hosted tours for the United Way and Seacoast Leadership in 2003.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Heyl and Jake Collins
Inmate Programs

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Jail Industry Program

The Jail Industry Program has been in existence for seventeen years, providing continuous private-sector work opportunities for inmates. Strafford County's Jail Industry program is the first certified County-paid work opportunity in the country and continued to meet its original goals to offset costs of incarcerations, reduce idleness, provide meaningful work skills, and generate monies for inmate release. The Jail Industry goals are: Reduce idleness of inmates; offset cost of incarceration; provide monies to inmates for release; and provide meaningful work skills.

The year 2003 found the Jail Industry Program located in the sally-port area of the facility. The limited space available during the expansion of the Strafford County House of Corrections necessitated limited operations with private sector partners.

Despite the limited work opportunities, 41 inmates worked during 2003. This generated 3,909 hours of inmate paid labor. The work opportunities occurred in the laundry and commissary departments, as well as work from our remaining private sector partner, Precision Assembly.

Another program that continues to grow and enhance the bridge between inmate families and the Department of Corrections is the "Family Reception Center." The mission of this program is:

"The Family Reception Center will strive to provide a comfortable, trusting, and supportive environment where the inmates' families, friends, and loved ones may come before and/or after visits to receive validation, support, and resources that may lessen the negative impact experienced through incarceration."

Grant monies in the amount of \$5,500 have been received at this point for the Family Reception Center. The Center will have been in existence for two years in March of 2004. A support group is also available the fourth Saturday of each month. The grantees have been Catholic Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund, the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, as well as support from area businesses.

We have created informational materials including: a Visitor's Handbook, and related resource materials from many local agencies.

Gross Revenues by Department	
Department	Revenue
Precision Assembly	\$7,651.00
Laundry	\$8,474.66
Laundry Distribution	\$10,000.00
Commissary Earnings	\$30,000.00
Family Reception Center	\$5,500.00
Total Gross Revenues	\$61,625.66

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Allen, Program Director

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Community Corrections Program

On December 31, 2003 Community Corrections completed its first nine months of operation of the Strafford County Community Corrections Program. This program currently operates 4 major functions:

1. Pre-Trial Bail Supervision: The program's main objective is to guide pre-trial defendants back into the community under close supervision who may otherwise be incarcerated while awaiting trial. This is accomplished in conjunction with the program's primary goal, which is:

- To assure that the defendant appears in court and that the defendant does not commit any criminal activity while awaiting trial.

During its first nine months of operation, Strafford County Community Corrections received many referrals for the bail supervision program from a variety of sources that included the District and Superior Courts, the Strafford County Attorney's Office, and the Public Defender's Office. Additionally, when Strafford County took over the pre-trial bail supervision program from Volunteers of America in April of 2003, a new position was created in which we have labeled "Intake Coordinator". The Intake Coordinator interviews/assess all persons detained by state and local law enforcement officers prior to that persons arraignment/bail hearing and to provide the court with relevant and verifiable information to help determine an appropriate bail for the specific charges that are alleged. List of areas that are covered in this interview are Residence, Employment, Family, Alcohol/Drug Usage, Criminal History, Other Open Court Cases and Ties to the Community.

2. Administrative Home Confinement (Electronic Monitoring): Administrative Home Confinement is a tool used by the court to impose a specific form of punishment to an individual that has been found guilty of a crime. This punishment is preceded by a fourteen day RSA mandated stand committed time of incarceration at the County House of Corrections. The guilty party wears an electronic monitoring device, more commonly known as "the bracelet", for a specific amount of time (what the court deems necessary.)
3. Step Down Program: The Step Down Program is a unique program to Strafford County. This program rewards inmates that have been convicted of a crime and prove, by their attitudes and actions, that they are taking responsibility for their crimes they have committed and are addressing those areas of concern pointed out by the court. The House of Corrections' Programs Director and Classification Officer refer inmates to the Strafford County Community Corrections Step-Down Program after an inmate has exhibited substantial and meaningful participation in programs that are offered in the jail (an example would be a drug/alcohol conviction = drug/alcohol counseling).
4. Chemical Dependency Treatment: Addictions Rehabilitation Center at Southeastern New Hampshire Services (ARC). The Strafford County Department of Corrections has initiated a pilot program in conjunctions with Community Corrections and Southeastern New Hampshire Services to provide short-term residential drug and alcohol treatment for inmates that have been ordered by the courts, as a condition of their sentence, to participate in. This program is designed to

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

provide treatment for those sentenced inmates that suffer from chemical dependency. This program last from four to six weeks while they are still incarcerated. The inmates participate in all aspects of the program, seven days a week, thirteen hours a day. The only difference between the inmates and other participants is, the inmates sleep in jail.

In nine months of operation, the Strafford County Community Corrections Program serviced one hundred and twenty-seven defendants. Out of one hundred and twenty- seven defendants, fifty-four were on electronic monitoring, sixty-six were on the pre-trial program and seven were on the step-down program. Of those serviced, ninety percent (90%) have complied with all conditions/court order and or have successfully competed the program. Ten percent (10%) violated the conditions of release and were returned to custody.

Strafford County Community Corrections Program obtained roughly three hundred and twenty-five (325) urine samples in the year 2003. Out of those samples, roughly fifty-one or (10%) proved positive for drug use. Tests that were positive proved the following types of drugs were used: Marijuana and cocaine.

Respectfully submitted,
Community Corrections Program

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Strafford County Commissioners and Ray Bower, County Administrator, for all their assistance and support in the year 2003. I would also like to thank all the staff and volunteers of the Strafford County Department of Corrections for a job well done and look forward to moving into the new facility during the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Warren Dowaliby, Superintendent
Strafford County Department of Corrections

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Strafford County Human Services Department is responsible for monitoring the State mandated programs billed to the County for Old Age Assistance (OAA), Aide to Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD), Elder Care, and Board and Care of Children. The County reimburses the State of New Hampshire fifty percent (50%) of the cost for OAA and APTD and twenty-five percent (25%) for Court-ordered services provided to children and their families. In regards to reimbursement for Elder Care, with the passage of House Bill 409, effective January 1, 1999, the County share was reduced from thirty-one percent (31%) to twenty-five percent (25%). County liability for services was expanded to include costs for Home and Community Based Care (HCBC) and payments to providers for prescriptions, hospital and physician appointments, as well as various other services.

The County and the State continue to work at implementing new in-home services and determining the best way to provide these services at the lowest cost. The Director of Human Services is also responsible for pursuing and determining parental reimbursement for court-ordered services for children, as well as utilizing third party insurance to reduce the costs of medical related services. All monies collected by the County are forwarded to the State. In turn, 25% of the collected amount is credited to the County, as well as a 15% administrative fee for expenses associated with collections. The total amount collected for 2003 was \$106,635.00.

The County continued to allocate Incentive/Diversion Funds received from the Division of Children, Youth, and Families to develop and enhance existing community programs with the goal of reducing and preventing costly out-of-home placements of children. A eight member selection committee consisting of three (3) representatives from the Division of Children, Youth, and Families, one (1) community representative, one (1) State Legislator, two (2) County Commissioners or their designee, and the Human Services Director review applications and submit their recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. The following programs were funded for 2003:

2003 INCENTIVE/DIVERSION PROGRAMS

Strafford County Intervention, Dover Youth Safe Haven, YMCA You Program, YMCA Youth Center, Sexual Assault Support Services, Somersworth Youth Safe Haven, Barrington Recreation, Northern Strafford County JCDP, Chances, Air Artists in Residence, Rochester Recreation Teen Camp, Rochester Quest Camp, Rochester Neighborhood Coalition, Plus Time, Girls, Inc., HUB, Rochester Child Care Center, Farmington Recreation, Somersworth Recreation, Milton Recreation Camp, Milton Recreation Camp Coordinator, Girls on the Run, Rochester Parent Child Center, Avis Goodwin Community Health, Big Brothers big Sisters, Dover Adult Learning Center, Behavioral Health, and City Year New Hampshire.

I would like to thank the Board of County Commissioners, Raymond Bower, County Administrator, and the Human Services Subcommittee for their continued support of my department. I especially want to say "thank you" and extend my appreciation to my staff. The office continues to run smoothly and efficiently, and their dedication and hard work do not go unnoticed!

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl A. Moulton, Director

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

STRAFFORD COUNTY UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2003 -OCTOBER 1, 2002 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

UNH Cooperative Extension provides Strafford County residents with research-based education and information, enhancing their ability to make informed decisions that strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy.

In every Strafford County community, this program is at work, increasing economic development, enhancing the environment, and developing human potential. At Strafford County, we want to "Help you put knowledge and research to work."

Information is available through workshops, publications, newsletters, our website, and by phone. Work-site and agency sponsored programs make it easy for busy people to receive needed information and assistance. Programs are available to individuals, families, schools, businesses and communities. The following are examples of efforts in the areas of Agriculture, Family Development, Forestry, 4-H Youth Development, and Nutrition.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Programs were developed in response to industry and individual farm needs. The Agriculture program reached the educational needs of the agricultural clientele through educational seminars and workshops, twilight meetings, hands on demonstrations, farm visits and one to one assistance. Information and education was also provided in written form and / or orally to homeowners and consumers' questions, problems, inquiries or concerns. Responded to over 700 requests. Subjects covered in seminars and twilight meetings include:

Nutrient management and the management of the root zone for greenhouse crops. This included hands on demonstration and practice on the techniques of testing and monitoring media pH and EC. Pest management for greenhouse crops. This included education and skills on recognition, identification and useful tools and methods of control of common diseases and insect pests. Weed control in vegetables and field grown cut flowers. Education transferred include, the use of cover crops in crop rotation as a tool for weed control and also identification and control of common disorders and diseases of field vegetables and flowers. The use of plastic mulches was also explored. Education on Seminars, twilight discussion meetings and demonstrations were offered to growers and home owners on important practices in the production of fruit and vegetables; including orchard floor management, insect and disease management, pruning and nutrient management. There was one to one assistance offered to commercial operators on improving direct marketing and general farm business expansion.

Evaluations of the success of the programs were done through end of session evaluations and follow up evaluations through farm visits. The evaluations demonstrated that the growers improved their knowledge and skills in the areas covered through the programs and a good percentage of them either adopted a new practice or improved on an existing practice. Most of the growers were also reached through farm visits. Education and skills were through direct interaction with the growers in aspects of production and marketing of their ornamental crops. Visits were also made to athletic fields to provide assistance with grounds maintenance.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Master Gardener volunteer program: Recruited and worked with Master Gardener volunteers on different community projects throughout the county including, Dover: developed a gardening program for clover buds children at Dover Housing Authority, worked with the main street program to landscape Orchard Street. Somersworth: worked with Main Street program to develop a welcome garden at the Maine state line on High Street. Durham: worked with students on after school gardening project at Oyster Middle School, renovation of the Centennial garden students at UNH Development Center. Lee: worked with students at Mast Way School. Other projects were done in Madbury and Rochester.

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

In response to the changing structure and needs of families UNH Cooperative Extension's Family Development program addresses issues of concern to residents of Strafford County. The Family Development Educator works to strengthen individuals, children, youth and families by providing educational programming including, workshops educational series, technical assistance, training for agencies/professionals, age paced newsletters and publications.

Current areas of focus include:

- Parenting Education
- Stress and Anger Management
- Quality Childcare
- Community Coalition Building
- Money Management/Family Resource Management

In addition to this programming, over 1830 family life and family resource education publications were distributed. Over 1600 families in Strafford County received a monthly Cradle Crier or Toddler Tale newsletter with information matched to the age of their child.

NUTRITION CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

Nutrition Connections consists of two initiatives: **EFNEP** (Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program) and **FSNEP** (Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program) whose key missions are:

- Provide life skills education to low-income audiences in food budgeting/shopping, nutrition, cooking, food safety, and fitness.
- Combat the growing epidemics of obesity and type 2 diabetes whose total public health cost is currently \$217 billion a year.

Nutrition Connections works with individuals in their homes and with groups at social-service agencies. Participants include the homeless, Early Head Start mothers, low-income seniors, foster-care teens approaching independent living, the developmentally disabled, and school children at income-eligible schools.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Major Program Impacts for 2003:

- Over 540 preschool and school-age children received food/nutrition education at Strafford Country Head Start centers, Maple St. and Allen Schools (Rochester), Hilltop School (Somersworth), Milton Elementary School, Memorial Drive & Valley View Schools (Farmington), Dover Children's Home, Youth Safe Haven (Somersworth), and Rochester Community Center.
- Adult education: 107 adults, representing 250 family members, completed food/nutrition/cooking series in groups or at in-home sessions to learn how to eat better for less, control weight, and reduce health risks. Partnering agencies included Developmental Services, Behavioral Health Services, Early Head Start, Tri-City Co-op, Avis-Goodwin Community Health Ctr., and Dover Housing Authority.
- Media-based education: Contributed three nutrition articles to Nutrition Connection's *Smart Choices* newsletter sent to 22,000 Food Stamp families statewide, including 2845 in Strafford County. Contributed two original nutrition articles to the Granite State Consumer column syndicated with *Foster's Daily Democrat* and other state newspapers.
- *Smart Steps* Walking Program: Some 130 county employees participated in this 8-week wellness initiative jointly sponsored by UNHCE and Strafford County Commissioners. Most participants have gone on to make increased physical activity a permanent part of their lifestyle.

DISTANCE EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

During 2003, 17 videoconferences were downloaded and taped as a public service, including 14 presented to a total live audience of 146 people. Examples:

- *Better Kid Care Series* (Penn State): Child Care providers earn licensing credits.
- *The Leader in You* (USDA/Soil Conservation Service)
- *Immunization Update* (DHHS)
- *Building New Employee Success with an Effective FPO Program* (County Jail)

FAMILY LIFESKILLS PROGRAM

The Family Lifeskills Program provides the LEAP (Lifeskills for Employment, Achievement and Purpose) program to participants who are currently receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) through the N.H. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Family Assistance. Within LEAP, we provide the skills necessary to balance work and family and the ability to deal successfully with issues that occur during the transition from assistance to employment and self-sufficiency. The 90-hour curriculum covers Personal Development, Parenting and Childcare, Food & Nutrition and Money Management. The program is also structured to increase a person's support network, their self-confidence and to gain additional knowledge about their community and the resources it offers. We require the participants to be on time to class and daily attendance is important, along with respect of others.

We have them look at barriers that they may be facing that could cause issues in the work force and then help them problem solve to be successful in the transition from welfare to work. Lack of transportation, lack of childcare, homelessness, mental health issues, medical issues, domestic

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

violence along with problems their children are facing are just a few of the barriers they deal with on a regular basis.

To increase a participant's knowledge base about resources available in their community, there are several agencies that are involved with the LEAP participants on a regular basis – for example: A Safe Place (domestic violence); Rochester Police Department (car seat safety); Nutrition Connections (food and nutrition); Family Development Educator (parenting and anger management); The HUB (participate in their programs) Rochester Community Clothing Closet (free clothing); Behavioral Health Services (Ambitions Group and other services) and Head Start (child care and the self-sufficiency program). The Salvation Army allows the LEAP program to be housed in their building. They have a food pantry that participants can use and they provide meals from the soup kitchen three times a week.

During the past year, I have worked with 47 families of which 35 families successfully completed LEAP. All of the families completed some portions of the curriculum. I have remained in contact with many of these families. They continue to use me as part of their support network as I have helped reopen closed childcare cases, provided support in district court, given references for housing applications and guided them through meeting requirements to remove sanctions on their TANF grant. I held a successful reunion for all previous LEAP participants in which their families were invited to attend. This was held at the Salvation Army Church and it provided an opportunity to widen their support network by meeting new people.

LEAP participants have made social, emotional and financial gains after completing the program. Many of the participants are now working or participating in additional training or educational programs. The majority of participants are able to identify at least one area of growth based on their participation in LEAP. The encouragement they received from LEAP has significantly played a role in their achievements.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The 4-H Youth Development Educator offers educational, research-based “hands on” 4-H programming for youth ages 5-18. The 4-H program provides opportunities for positive youth development. By working together with youth and families throughout Strafford County, youth learn the skills they need to become productive caring citizens.

Extension Program/Specialty Areas:

- Establish community and family 4-H clubs
- Recruit and manage volunteers
- Develop after school and out of school programs
- Work with communities to build community coalitions based on youth issues

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

FOREST RESOURCES

Forest Stewardship Accomplishments:

- Woodland examinations: 19 landowners on 1095 acres and referred to forestry consultants
- Weeding of forest stands: 68 acres for one landowner
- Pruning of high quality white pine crop trees: 20 acres for one landowner
- Collaboration with forestry consultants and landowners on forest management and current use planning maps: 18 landowners for 1652 acres
- Forest access road laid out and/or completed: 4 landowners for 19,780 feet (3.7 miles)
- Shade tree visits: 49 visits to back and front yards and 50 assists over the phone

Workshops with Youth and/or Adults:

- 30 workshops with 725 participants

News Stories and Television Programs (initiated, wrote or had some involvement)

- 23 stories in the newspapers, 3 programs on television and 2 stories on radio

Other Activities:

- Serving as the County Office Administrator
- Draft the new agricultural lease with Savage of UNHCE, Ellsmore of NRCS, Covell of UNHCE and Kane of SPNHF.
- 3,500 trees delivered from the State Nursery to residents of Strafford County.

COCHECO RIVER WATERSHED COALITION

Ten of the thirteen towns in Strafford County have lands in the Cocheco River Watershed, ranging from 94% of Farmington and 74% of Dover to 15% of Milton. Along the 34-mile length of the river, volunteers have been monitoring water quality for the last five years. From June through September, they fan out with buckets and meters to test at ten sites every two weeks. These are citizens who live in the watershed and care about the environmental quality of their communities. In partnership with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Volunteer River Assessment Program, they have produced a body of data, which can be used by their community officials to plan and manage the resources of their communities.

The Cocheco River Watershed Coalition is a group of citizens, community representatives and watershed interest groups whose purpose is to improve the environmental quality of the watershed. Our three inter-related goals are that communities regard the river as an asset that healthy populations of fish exist in the river as indicators of watershed health and that citizens become stewards of the watershed. Strafford County UNH Cooperative Extension provides educational program and office support to the group.

An access guide to the river and other important features of the watershed was recently published to entice citizens to explore the nature of the river and for a variety of recreational activities. Three events promoted the use of the guide: a guided walk on the Strafford County Farm at which participants learned about the conservation practices on the newly protected land, a canoe trip

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

which drew attendance of over 80 people from throughout the watershed for a trip from Farmington to Rochester, and a bird walk at the Pickering Ponds in Rochester.

The Access Guide is available locally at libraries, Chambers of Commerce and town halls. Or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the UNH Cooperative Extension office.

The Coalition works with youth primarily through our affiliation with the Gulf of Maine Institute. Students do local projects in the community setting as partners with adults. The projects address real issues with real science while developing leadership skills, generally as after school activities. Project topics include fish habitat, aquatic invasive species, and riparian resource management. In July they share their projects with students from the other states and Canadian provinces in the Gulf of Maine watershed. This year New Hampshire students from Rochester, Barrington, Dover and Somersworth went to New Brunswick for the summer institute.

Other activities of the Coalition this year include a river cleanup in central Rochester in cooperation with the City, Spaulding High School students, neighborhood activists and Waste Management, Inc. Forty participants filled four truckloads.

The Coalition is beginning a project in which we will work with professional consultants to produce a status report for the watershed, a plan for future monitoring and recommendations for watershed restoration. We also are working with a group in Farmington to restore a riverbank and improve fish habitat while preventing private property loss from erosion.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The face of New Hampshire Agriculture is changing; in addition to commercial agriculture, there is also a growing population of smaller part-time farms. Many of these people do not have the background in livestock production that a traditional farmer might have.

This audience needs basic information on animal husbandry, including: nutrition, housing, pasture management, manure management, selection, marketing, forage management and business. In order to meet these needs a multi-year effort is underway involving workshops, pasture walks and farm visits. This year Carroll and Strafford County hosted Goat Management, Poultry Management and Beef Marketing Workshops. These were well attended and represent the beginning of a multi-year plan to educate Carroll and Strafford County entry-level farmers in current animal husbandry practices.

Through an annual application process Master Gardener Interns are selected from each county to participate in 10 weeks of Horticultural training. Upon completing the training program, Interns must complete 45 hours of volunteer service to become full-fledged Master Gardeners. After their intern year, Master Gardeners must complete 15 hours of volunteer service in order to remain active Master Gardeners. Carroll County currently has 25 active Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners multiply the effect of Cooperative Extension by providing outreach to their communities through a variety of educational programs, news articles and experiential learning opportunities.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

2003 Master Gardener Project Highlights: The Veggie Volunteer Program-Under the direction of Master Gardener Jory Sivin, and through the generosity of the Sherman Farm, volunteers from youth groups, schools and private individuals met at the Sherman Farm in East Conway during the summer growing season. Volunteers picked, washed, boxed and delivered donated vegetables to food pantries and kitchens.

While picking and washing surplus fresh vegetables from the Sherman's fields, volunteer groups had the opportunity to see a working farm in operation, tour the dairy and livestock facility, and gain the satisfaction of helping others in the community. Collection of vegetables began the last week of June and continued through the growing season. Reports were collected from the recipients that showed an average of 1360 people received vegetables each week, totaling 17675 in 13 weeks of operation. Local food pantries and meal programs saved an average of \$430 dollars each week, for a total of \$5,771.

Respectfully submitted:

Geoffrey Njue, Extension Educator
Agricultural Resources

Thomas Linehan, Extension Educator
Family Development

David Leonard, Extension Program Associate
Expanded Food & Nutrition
Education Program (EFNEP)

Don Black, Extension Educator
County Office Administrator
Forest Resources

Chris Bozak, 4-H & Youth Development
Extension Educator

Lorie Chase, Project Coordinator
Cocheco River Watershed Project

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

STRAFFORD COUNTY DELEGATION COMMITTEE MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING OF JANUARY 29, 2003

A Public Hearing of the Strafford County Legislation Delegation was held on Wednesday, January 29, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. at Courtroom II of the William A. Grimes Strafford County Justice and Administrative Building. Chairman Callaghan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Representative Keans led the Delegation and Public in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a Moment of Silence. The Clerk then read the notice of the Public Hearing and Meeting, which was posted in three (3) public places and advertised in the local newspaper.

The Clerk then called the roll, which showed the following members present:

PRESENT: Bemis, Berube, Brown, Callaghan, Cataldo, Campbell, Creteau, Dunlap, Easson, Grassie, Harrington, Heon, Hofemann, Johnson, Keans, Knowles, Newton, Pelletier, Rous, Schmidt, Snyder, Taylor, Kathleen, Taylor, Kathrine, Twombly, Vachon, Wall, and Woods (27 of 37)

EXCUSED: Miller and Smith (2)

ABSENT: Albert, Bickford, Hollinger, Kaen, Musler, Rollo, Scott, and Spang (8)

Also present were Strafford County Commissioners George Maglaras, Ron Chagnon, and Cal Schroeder, Treasurer Pamela Arnold, County Attorney Janice Rundles, Sheriff Wayne Estes, Leo Lessard, Register of Deeds, County Administrator Ray Bower, Diane Legere, Finance Director, Jean Miccolo, Administrative Assistant, Ken Robichaud, Cubbi Lirrette, Domestic Violence Unit Director, Maintenance Director James Gaunya, Bambi Miller, Soil Conservation Service, Don Black, Lorie Chase, and Tom Linehan, UNH Cooperative Extension, Elizabeth Fourar-Laidi, Cochecho Valley Humane Society, Janet Atkins, Avis Goodwin Health Center, Claudette Boutin, The Homemakers of Strafford County, Mary Swanson, Seacoast Hospice, Rochester Police Chief David Dubois, Madbury Police Officer Joe McGann, Col. Duncin Chaplin, Earle Goodwin, Brad Morin, Fosters Daily Democrat, as well as several other members of the general public.

Chairman Callaghan opened the Public Hearing for comments on the Commissioners' Proposed 2003 Budget and welcomed everyone. He then asked Commission Chairman Maglaras to speak on the Commissioners' Proposed 2003 Budget. Commissioner Maglaras reviewed the budget briefly for the members of the public and noted that copies of the budget were available. Commissioner Maglaras commented on the budget, citing statements from the Commissioners' Budget Message. The Commissioners are proposed a \$36,138,014 in expenditures, with a proposed surplus of \$630,000, and revenues of \$19,299,511. The proposed amount to be raised by taxes is \$16,208,503. Due to the significant amount of growth in the tax base for Strafford County, the tax assessment will be disbursed over a larger tax base, thus reducing the actual increase in the budget to approximately five percent (5%) for the average taxpayer. He welcomed a thorough review of the proposed budget by the Delegation and residents of Strafford County.

Chairman Callaghan then asked if any members of the public wished to speak, make comments, or ask questions on the Commissioners' Proposed Budget for 2003.

Mr. Earle Goodwin of 34 Arch Street, Dover, New Hampshire, asked to speak. He referred to the 2001 audit report and noted that in appears that Riverside Rest Home is operating with a deficit, which will be even larger in 2002. He noted that revenues should equal expenditures, and they do not and will not equal in 2002 either. Mr. Goodwin stated that it was his hope that the Delegation take the time to look into this matter and not just "rubber stamp" the budget as proposed by the Commissioners. He also stated that the budget has a 15% increase, not the 5% quoted by the Commissioners. He asked how much of a cut in the budget would it take to have a zero percent increase in taxes. Mr. Goodwin also stated that the City of Dover has a major interest in the budget as their share is approximately 28% of the total amount to be raised by taxation. Mr. Goodwin also inquired as to including the payment for bond interest due in 2004 in the 2003 budget. The explanation is that this is the actual interest expense for 2003 incurred on the \$20,000,000 borrowed in July of 2002. Even though the first payment for the Jail bond is not due until January 1, 2004, we felt it was proper accounting to incur the expense in the year in which it was incurred.

The next speaker was Rochester Police Chief David Dubois. Chief Dubois noted that the Rochester Police Department has an excellent relationship with the County Attorney, the County Dispatch Center, and Sheriff Estes has been very

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

cooperative. There are currently twelve (12) of the thirteen (13) police departments in Strafford County that participate in the Domestic Violence Program, all of whom support the program and would like to see it continued. The Proposed Budget for 2003 includes a slightly scaled down version of the program, as funding for the program was not renewed by the Federal Violence Against Women's Office grant program. The program began in 1998 with Federal funds and is a cooperative effort of the County Attorney's Office, the Department of Probation and Parole, A Safe Place, and the Police Departments. The training provided by the DVU has been invaluable for the police departments in working with domestic situations. He encouraged the Delegation to strongly consider the continuation of this very important program. The two most significant aspects of the program are, first staff and training; The staff are motivated, interested advocates. They provide assistance to the victims, as well as the batterer. The training provided by the DVU is invaluable to the area police departments. The second is the financial impact of providing this service County-wide. If police departments had to hire staff to provide these services, city and town budgets would be greatly impacted. By having the DVU, resources are consolidated and the cost is a great deal less, but the cities and towns get much more through this program. Mr. Joe McGann spoke next. Mr. McGann is the Deputy Police Chief from Madbury. He is here at the request of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. McGann also spoke on the benefits provided by the Domestic Violence Unit and asked that funding for this program be continued by the County. Janet Atkins, Avis Goodwin Community Health Center, spoke on behalf of the Center. She stated that the Center provides pre-natal and family planning services, to residents of Strafford County. They are also a primary care facility. She asked that the Delegation consider continuation of the funding provided for this program to help offset costs provided on a sliding scale. Mary Swanson, Seacoast/Strafford Hospice spoke on behalf of Hospice. She thanked the Commissioners and the Delegation for their past support of the program and asked that they continue to provide financial assistance to enable more hospice care for residents in need. Claudette Boutin, CEO, The Homemakers of Strafford County, spoke on behalf of this organization that provides homemaking services to residents of Strafford County. She is glad that the Homemakers is able to provide these services for Strafford County again and hopes that they will be able to provide more services this year, enabling residents in need of these types of services to stay in their homes longer. Elizabeth Fourar-Laidi, Cocheco Valley Humane Society, spoke on behalf of CVHS. She thanked the Delegation for their funding of the shelter's stray program last year and asked that their proposal for funding for this year be considered favorably. They were able to care for and save over 400 animals last year.

Chairman Callaghan asked if anyone else wished to speak on the Commissioners Proposed Budget for 2003. There being none, the Chairman asked a second time if anyone members of the public wished to comment on the budget; again, there was no response. Chairman Callaghan asked a third and final time if there was anyone wishing to provide input or comments on the Commissioners' Proposed 2003 budget. There being none, Chairman Callaghan declared the Public Hearing on the Commissioners Proposed 2003 budget closed.

Chairman Callaghan opened the hearing on the Commissioners' Capital Improvement Bond Request for 2003 and asked County Administrator Bower to review the capital improvement items to be bonded for the member of the public and the Delegation. Administrator Bower referred to the 2003 Budget, which lists the following items to be bonded:

Justice and Administration Capital Improvement Items

Carpeting for Courtrooms	\$ 28,625.00
Computerized Energy Controller	11,700.00
Roofing for Courthouse, Sheriff's Dept., & Day Care	106,000.00
Paving Courthouse Parking Lots	190,000.00
HOC/Jail Project Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	224,782.00
HOC/Jail Project Pollution Control & Management	288,075.00
Registry of Deeds Scanning Machine	30,290.00
Court Jester Café Rolling Door Closures	3,000.00
Sheriff's Repeater System for Digital Communications System	<u>21,522.00</u>
Subtotal Justice and Administration Bonded Items	\$ 903,994.00

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Riverside Rest Home Capital Improvement Items

Air Conditioning Units for Residents	\$ 177,500.00
Computer Information Technology & Software	86,372.00
Dietary Equipment	37,644.00
Elevators Upgrade/Replacement (safety issue)	25,950.00
Elevators Controller (ADA requirement)	46,990.00
Electro-Cardiogram Machine & Accessories, Full Body Lift	10,577.00
Specialty Mattresses	10,500.00
Nurse Call Bell	6,995.00
Paving Parking Lots	50,000.00
Tractor with Mower and Cutting Blade	39,000.00
Above-Ground Fuel Storage Tank	35,645.00
2 Handicap Vans for Transporting Residents to Appointments	86,000.00
Large Transport Bus for Transporting Residents for Outings	48,000.00
Plow Truck (3/4 ton, 4-wheel drive)	31,200.00
Dump Truck	40,000.00
B Building Window Replacement (Single-pane with double-panes)	56,320.00
6 Bay Garage for County Vehicles	168,700.00
Roof Repair/Replacement	<u>151,000.00</u>
Subtotal Riverside Rest Home Bonded Items	\$1,108,393.00
Total Bond Request	\$2,012,387.00

Chairman Callaghan asked if any members of the public wished to speak and invited all present to comment or ask questions on the Commissioners' Capital Improvement Bond Request for 2003. There being none, Chairman Callaghan asked again if there were any members of the public who wished to comment on the capital improvement bond; again, there was no response. Chairman Callaghan then asked a third and final time if there was anyone wishing to provide input or comments on this item. There being none, Chairman Callaghan declared the Public Hearing on the Capital Improvement Bond Request for 2003 closed.

Chairman Callaghan opened the meeting of the Delegation and asked if there was any discussion on the Commissioners Proposed 2003 Budget or the Capital Improvement Bond Request.

Chairman Callaghan asked Commission Chairman Maglaras to speak. Commissioner Maglaras stated that Counties are required by law to include capital items to be bonded in the County budget. These items are listed in the Justice and Administration portion and the Riverside Rest Home portion of the budget and are offset by revenues, listed under Bond Proceeds in the Justice and Administration and Riverside Rest Home revenues sections. The reason the capital items to be bonded is broken out as J&A and RRH is that the items included in Riverside's portion can be included in requests for Medicaid reimbursement. The total amount of the bond request is \$2,012,387. In response to the question Mr. Goodwin had asked earlier about a zero percent tax increase, he noted that approximately \$750,000 would have to be cut from non-bonded items in the budget. In response to another question regarding the bonded items, Chairman Maglaras answered that the County will begin paying off the capital improvement bond in 2004.

Representative Twombly asked about bonding for vehicles and the life expectancy of these vehicles compared to the life of the bond. This is a ten-year bond and the life expectancy of the vehicles—depending on usage—approximately 10 years.

Representative Harrington asked about the payback period for the capital items involving energy efficiency. Administrator Bower noted that he has worked with Mr. Tom Moody from Public Service of New Hampshire and would make his comments available to Representative Harrington for review.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Representative Kathleen Taylor asked how many vehicles the County currently owns and how maintenance is done. Administrator Bower stated that he will provide a detailed breakdown of this information, as some vehicles are too old to continue on a maintenance plan; leased vehicles are maintenance plans included in the lease amount; etc.

Representative Schmidt asked about vehicle maintenance as well. The County does provide a lot of its maintenance for vehicles, but it depends on a variety of factors as to what type of maintenance is done in-house and what is sent out. Representative Berube asked about the life expectancy of the vehicles and whether the County rotates our vehicle fleet.

Commissioner Maglaras noted that the County received very favorable rates on the tax anticipation note borrowing conducted January 28. We received a rate of 1.635% for \$8,500,000 in tax anticipation notes that will be due at the end of the year, after the County receives taxes.

Representative Twombly asked if we received quotes or estimates for the amounts on the items in the capital improvement plan. Administrator Bower responded that the County contacts various vendors to get estimates on these items. The capital items will go out to bid once approved.

Representative Brown asked Commissioner Maglaras if the Cocheco Valley Humane Society has taken the County up on its offer of land to relocate the shelter on County land. This offer was made two years ago, when Jail construction was imminent and there has been no response to the offer to date.

Representative Kathleen Taylor asked about the removal of the underground storage tank. This is the last underground storage tank on the County Complex. All others are now aboveground. Due to the age of the tank, it would have to be removed in a couple of years and it was thought prudent to include it in the two-year capital improvement plan request for this year.

Representative Keans asked for clarification on the capital improvement items to be bonded. An amortization schedule will be made available to the Revenues and Capital Expenditures Subcommittee for the 10-year bond. This is a 5 year Capital Improvement Plan. Copies are available to anyone interested in a detailed breakdown of the items listed in the budget.

Representative Vachon asked about the "lump" sum included in the Commissioners Proposed Budget for Contracted Social Service Agencies. Administrator Bower explained that these amounts are not set by the Commissioners for the individual agencies; it has been the practice of the Commissioners to level fund the total amount appropriated for these agencies to the prior year's level and have the Subcommittee make recommendations based on meetings with representatives from the CSSA agencies.

Chairman Callaghan reminded the Chairmen of the Delegation Subcommittees to schedule meetings to review the appropriate section of the budget between now and March 1, in order to have reports complete and submitted to the Executive Committee prior to its tentatively scheduled meeting of Friday, March 7, 2003, 9:00 a.m. The Full Delegation Meeting to finalize the budget has tentatively set for Saturday, March 15, 2003, 9:00 a.m.

Representative Newton stated that he has authored a letter to the State Department of Environmental Services, from the State Representatives and Senators, requesting their prompt response to the County's request for assistance in the clean-up of the polluted area near the new jail. He asked that everyone present read the letter and sign it.

Chairman Callaghan asked if there were any more questions. With no further business, Representative Twombly motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Seconded by Representative Wall and accepted unanimously on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Grassie, Clerk
Strafford County Delegation

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

STRAFFORD COUNTY DELEGATION MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2003

Chairman Callaghan called the Public Meeting of the Strafford County Delegation to order at 9:00 a.m. Representative Keans led the Executive Committee in the pledge of allegiance to the flag, which was followed by a moment of silence. Clerk Grassie read the Notice of the Public Meeting and called the roll, which showed the following members present:

PRESENT: Albert, Berube, Bickford, Brown, Callaghan, Cataldo, Creteau, Dunlap, Easson, Grassie, Heon, Hofeman, Johnson, Keans, Knowles, Musler, Newton, Pelletier, Rollo, Rous, Scott, Spang, Twombly, Vachon, Wall. (25 of 37).

EXCUSED: Bemis, Kaen, Smith, Synder, Kathleen Taylor (5).

ABSENT: Campbell, Harrington, Hollinger, Miller, Schmidt, Katherine Taylor, Woods (7).

Also present were Commissioners Maglaras, Chagnon, Administrator Raymond Bower, Finance Director Diane Legere, and several members of the general public.

Chairman Callaghan opened the meeting with a Hearing on the Bonded Items. He asked if there was any questions or comments (3 requests). There were no questions or comments by the public on the Bonded Items and the meeting was closed to the public at this time. Chairman Callaghan now opened the Delegation Meeting.

The first item was a Report and Recommendation by Representative Twombly on the General Government Subcommittee. Representative Twombly reported on the highlights of his committee's work as outlined in the attached reports. There was a motion to accept the budget in its entirety. It was the consensus of the Delegation after putting to a vote to accept the recommendation of the General Government Subcommittee as presented by Representative Twombly.

The next report was the Report and Recommendation of the Human Service Subcommittee to be presented to the Full Delegation by Representative Hofemann. Representative Hofemann went over the minutes of the February 20th meeting and reviewed the budget that was presented. At this time Line Item 256 was brought up and Commissioner Maglaras spoke on this issue.

Commissioner Maglaras referred to Paragraph 4 of the front page of the Commissioner's Proposed Budget, which refers to New Hampshire's counties and State Medicaid drawdown plan called Proportionate Share Pool (PSP) Funding. He said that this pool was to enhance revenue through the Medicaid System to nursing homes like Riverside who provide Medicaid Services. The state of NH made claims against that pool of which we received revenues. The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services of Washington has rejected the State of NH's claim. As a result of this rejection Strafford County has to repay \$1,982,000.00. The Executive Committee voted to authorize the County Commissioners to pay that bill to the state. He went on to talk about SB409, and what the outcome of this would be. If SB409 sunsets without adjustments Strafford County will be financially okay with the budget as authorized by the Executive Committee. If SB409 continues Strafford County will have to call back the Delegation to appropriate additional money to meet that obligation. Representative Newton asked what happens with the money after we pay it back?

Commissioner Maglaras told him it was a complicated system but to break it down, he said that the State made the claim, and gave us the money, and then the claim was rejected. The State could turn around and make the counties whole through some other plan. Commissioner Maglaras went on to give examples of some other plans that could make the County whole. Representative Newton asked Commissioner Maglaras now that we have to pay this money back, could this be worked into the budget? Commissioner Maglaras replied by saying that when the budget was proposed over 5 months ago, the Commissioners were under the assumption that we were going to keep the PSP money. Certain assumptions were made when the budget was proposed at that time, and a lot of things were subject to change. We also didn't think that there was going to be an impasse with our union. There is a proposal right now before the legislature to create a bed tax on Medicaid Providers. The nursing home bed tax is going to tax every nursing home bed in the state \$9.60 per day per bed. This is a cost to Strafford County of about \$2,000.00 per day. This is a plan to leverage more money from the federal government and how that money may come back to us is anybody's guess. At present, with all things being equal, this budget, if nothing changes, and we had to pay the PSP money back, we will have about a 20%

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

increase in taxes. Had the County Commissioners known three months ago that we were going to be faced with a 20% increase in taxes, I know I would have been uncomfortable with presenting this budget then. Last year we had no increase in taxes.

Representative Newton asked Commissioner Maglaras if he had any recommendations other than a wait and see attitude as to what we can do to address this issue? Commissioner Maglaras said that the counties need to work together diligently to determine what we are going to do now, and whether or not we want to continue to finance elder care with the state. Representative Newton said if there is something the Delegation can do let us know so that we can help. Commissioner Maglaras said that this week at the House Finance they are having a hearing on HB663, which is the reauthorization of SB409. There are many aspects of that bill that the counties are supporting in terms of our continued relationship with the state. The Legislature could make the counties whole through the Healthcare Transition Fund. He also went on to say that everyone wants a piece of the tobacco tax, but that is another source of revenue for the County. Commissioner Maglaras went on to say that these are some of the options we have to work on diligently. It was asked if this problem was happening in other counties. Commissioner Maglaras said that SB409 affects all the counties in the state. The County Commissioners have absolutely no control on the State Medicaid programs. The State determines the eligibility and how much they are going to spend for those programs. All we do is get a bill. We are a taxing authority. Whatever the Legislature determines it to be, we respond to that through the budget. Representative Twombly asked if there was a way to increase the statewide property tax and spread it among the counties, if this would help, or if there was a way to tweak it.

Commissioner Maglaras stated that the money the counties fund the Medicaid System with could be raised by a Statewide property tax. The cost for the Medicaid system in the northern counties and in the western counties of this state is extremely high on a per capita base. They spend \$500 per capita; in this county we spend \$63. This is for the same program. In Rockingham County and Hillsborough it is \$42 per capita. One of the Legislators from Rockingham County, at a recent meeting to bring everybody up to date on our Medicaid Relationship with the state, turned around and said this is no big deal to raise the county tax because we pay so little in County Tax. This is true in Rockingham County as they pay 2% in County taxes, but in other Counties this is not true as they may pay as much as 30% depending on which county you live in.

Representative Scott questioned the fact of the \$3 million dollar budget for health insurance. He wanted to know if it was outside or inside of our control? Commissioner Maglaras replied by saying that the insurance part of the budget was partially in our control. To the extent that we have a contract with our employees through the Union. The Union presents this through negotiations and then it is brought to the Delegation. The Delegation votes on it, usually on a yearly basis, depending on the contract. Right now we are at an impasse, and our contract runs out on March 31st. It looks like we are not going to be coming up with a contract until June or July. So, a lot of what you are asking in terms of control, will have a lot to do with labor relations. Let me state that if in fact we get to the point that we are able to present a package of that expense to the Delegation; the Delegation at that time can reject that expense. Now what happens at that point if you reject the expense, we would have to go back to the table, and renegotiate.

Commissioner Maglaras went on to say that a lot of those health insurance costs are reimbursable to us by the state and federal government for the operation of the nursing home. The majority of employees in this county are employed by the nursing home. There has been some discussion by members of the delegation that we can make some kind of bottom line adjustment to the budget based on what you perceived to be tolerance of the taxpayer to pay. You certainly don't want to cut something that we get revenue from. I am suggesting that you go through this budget listen to your colleagues who have sat down and gone through this budget, and discussed it, and at the end ask yourself the tough question of what you think you want to do, then make a decision on how you want to proceed. It is more organized this way and doesn't create a lot of frustration among others as you go through the budget.

At this time, a motion was made to accept the Report and Recommendation of the Human Service Subcommittee. The motion was made and it was seconded. There were no other questions at this time. The report was accepted unanimously.

Chairman Callaghan called for the Report and Recommendation from Representative Berube on the Criminal Justice Committee. Representative Berube went over the report from the meeting of February 11, 2003. He also went over the proposed budget recommended by the Commissioners for 2003. Representative Easson pointed out and asked the

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

question as to why there was \$3.00 appropriated last year for the Jail Industry Programs and the total expenditures were \$17,565.29, and that according to page 16 in the budget only \$4.00 was appropriated for this year.

Administrator Bower asked if he could reply to that question. He went on to say that the purpose of leaving a dollar in there is to keep the program open. What ever is expended the offsetting revenue comes in on the revenue page. You'll see on the revenue page one-dollar corresponding appropriations. The theory here is as the money comes in the money goes out. We could put in any dollar figure in there as long as there is an off setting revenue.

Representative Easson asked, so it is a self-sufficient program? Administrator Bower replied exactly. The whole program is self-sufficient, and in fact if you look at it over the last 10-years it has actually turned a profit for the county.

Representative Scott asked why the Sheriff's budget was so high. Administrator Bower replied that they were looking at the expense side. He said that if you looked on the revenue page, which is page 40, you will see an offsetting revenue(s) increase of over \$100,000.00. These are the details that are brought up and gone over on the subcommittee level, but if you look at the revenue on page 40, you will see that three lines down from the top, that the Sheriff's Deputy Fees there was a \$50,000.00 increase in revenue to the county. If you follow down a little bit further, down to the Bailiff Reimbursement there is an approximate \$28,000.00 increase in revenue there, and on the Sheriff's Special Details there is a \$34,000.00 revenue there. It looks like there is a 10% increase in expenses, but understand that this is not the impact to the taxpayer.

The Dispatch Center dispatches for the towns, for the Sheriff's Department and for the House of Corrections. This year in the budget the center has picked up dispatching for the towns of Lee and Madbury, which previously had not participated in the center. With the amount of work that is going on at the dispatch center and with the additions of the towns of Lee and Madbury, it was the request of the Sheriff and the agreement of the Commissioners that we add a second dispatcher 5-nights a week on the overnight shift. When we added Lee and Madbury and with the volume increase of all of the towns, it was a determination of the Chiefs and the Sheriffs that we needed that second dispatcher on the 11-7 shift, and that is where the increase came in. Regarding the House of Correction; as you know after a lengthy process and deliberation the delegation, not the last delegation, but the delegation before, approved the construction of the new House of Corrections which is about 35% completed. In this budget, it begins to fund that new House of Correction. It begins some of the staffing that is needed. We made a commitment to the Delegation regarding the staffing numbers and I am pleased to report that we are on target with that commitment. The issue is that we have a jail built for 68 inmates and that we now have 180 inmates in. Not only do we have 180 inmates in that jail, we are also monitoring 50 to 55 inmates in the community on top of that 180 inmates, so the system is four times over crowded. So I would certainly tell you that if we had a stagnant inmate population we wouldn't need any increase in expenses. But if you look at that jail budget, and you look at where the increase lies, it is in medical costs for the inmates. An example of that is; we had an inmate that came to us who had one tooth. That tooth became infected, and we had it extracted at our expense. Certainly we understand and agreed to do so. He sued us in Federal District Court and forced us to supply him with a full set of dentures. So if you look at the total increase in the jail budget, and subtract out the increase in costs related to the medical expense, you will see that the remaining increase in that budget is about the rate of inflation.

At this time there was a motion made to approve the Report and Recommendation of the Criminal Justice Subcommittee. It was seconded. It was asked if there were any questions. There were a couple of other comments that were added. The Capital Expense in the Justice and Administration went from \$75,100.00 to \$980,440.00, the "Other Accounts" went from \$17,000.00 to \$347,500.00 and the Debt Accounts went from 685,472.00 to 1,453,524.00, do you have any explanations for that. Administrator Bower replied by saying I will start with the Debt Account. What you are doing is paying for or appropriating the interest payment on the new jail. That was the debt that was voted on by not last Delegation but the Delegation before. This is the interest we incurred, or will incur as an expense in the year 2003. The Capital Expense; we had a lengthy discussion in front of the Capital Committee. This is two years of capital requests. The majority of which is a bond request of approximately \$2M. We are trying to take advantage of the low interest rate. These are all projects that need to be done, in estimation of the county, and I believe in the estimation of the subcommittee, at least in the committee in its final vote. The thought here is that we would take advantage of being able to borrow at approximately 3 to 3 ½% which is the current market rate for extended bonds, and we would combine two years of projects together to take advantage of being able to do things in groups. Let me be specific. Last year we had an emergency request to the executive committee to repair the roof on this third of the Court House Building. We were looking at doing the balance of this building, understanding that the last time we did the roofs in this building we also did the roofs at the nursing home.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

We have buckets in the hallways of the nursing home on the upper floor units for where water pours in. So instead of doing two-thirds of this building and not doing the nursing home and looking at doing that later we combined the projects and estimate that we will save \$100,000.00 when we go out for bid. We have a lot of paving to be done in relation to the new jail, and this is included in the jail project. We have not resurfaced any of these parking lots since 1975 when this building opened, and at that time, we only put on one coat. We can take advantage of the economy of more paving by going out to bid and pave this area and redo other parking lots that need to be done at the same time we are doing the jail. So there is an economy of scale. At this time it was stated by Chairman Callahan that we have a motion, and a second on the floor to accept the Report of the Criminal Justice Executive Committee. All were in favor. The vote was unanimous.

Next on the Agenda is the Report of Riverside Rest Home. Representative Wall presented the report by saying that we do not have the shortage in staffing, but I will tell you that it is bare bones. We are doing the best that we can knowing that there is a nursing shortage out there. At one point some time ago, we had to remove some nurse's aides positions, from that budget, but we have been able to restore some of those in order to make sure that our patients are receiving quality care, and they do receive it. Some of you who have been here awhile are aware of our Socio-Behavioral Unit. It is pretty much level funded with just a tiny bit of an increase. It is important to know that as our population grows old, there are many elderly with Dementia and Alzheimer's and we are very fortunate to have one of four of the Socio-Behavioral Units in the County. It provides a tremendous service for our population in this area. There has been a higher focus this year on activities, because the federal government has said we need to have individualized programs for each resident no matter what their level of Dementia or their ability to participate. So in order to comply with federal regulations, the activity staff has been re-arranged without actually adding any other staff, and our residents are receiving those individualized plans and are able to participate in activities. The committee had considerable discussion about the situation with the Union Negotiations. We are very concerned, and we have asked Administrator Bower to address this situation. We also discussed the matter of insurance coverage for employees, because as all of you have seen in your individual committees there has been a substantial increase. I don't think that it is much we can control. Administrator Bower asked if he could answer both of these questions. Mr. Bower gave a brief update on the status of negotiations. The Commissioners have put aside a reasonable amount of money for what they believe would settle the Union Negotiations. We negotiated for about four months and the Union declared an impasse. They were at 40.63% requested increase, and declared impasse at that point. I don't think that anybody, in our wildest dream, would think that is anywhere within 95% of a reasonable number. To more fully answer your health insurance question, the average county employee makes a little over \$11 an hour. What retains the county employees here is that our health insurance benefit is a good benefit. Also, the County employee does pay towards that. You will see on the revenue page of the budget there is about four to five hundred thousand dollars in revenue that comes in from the employees' contribution for health insurance. In addition insurance costs related to the nursing home, are reimbursable under Medicaid. When you negotiate with the Union, the negotiation is a balance. It is a balance between what the Union requests in wages and what they request in benefits. Each time we finish a package of negotiations, all are brought to the Delegation. The Commissioners can sign the contract, but they can't fund the contract without Delegation approval. My direction from the Commissioners in settling these types of issues is to encourage a larger percentage of participation by the employees for their health care costs. When we say that we put money in the budget to settle Union Contract, it's not some kind of cost of living on top of a longevity step. Each movement on the step system is negotiated within the contract. Representative Wall thanked Mr. Bower very much, and she went on to say that we have worked long and hard at this, and we looked for any ways that we could make cuts. We can't, and we shouldn't in this particular budget because every detail was paid attention to quite carefully and skillfully, and we compliment the Administrator at the Nursing Home for his good work for the residents of our county. Representative Newton asked the question what percentage of health care cost employees actually pay versus five years ago? Administrator Bower replied by saying that we paid none 5-years ago, and we are paying about between 15 to 20% right now. At this point a comment was made by Representative Berube that we should be very proud of our nursing home in this county I think that the people work very hard, and like I have stated when we start looking at different wages, and the people that work in there, it makes it very hard to retain nurses to be working in our home. They have to be dedicated to be there, and I just wanted to point that out. It is very important because they are providing care to our elderly people that are in need, and probably the last few years of their lives, and we are fortunate to have the people that are working with the County to help those people, and I think that this needs to be brought up. So, you have all heard the motions and questions. All those in favor. No one opposed.

Chairman Callahan when to the next item on the Agenda which was the Report on Capital Expense and Revenue presented by Representative Pelletier. Representative Pelletier went over the minutes of the meeting of February 10th. He

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

said that prior to that meeting we received a three-ring binder full of all the proposed Capital Expenditures. We spent six hours going through this. I went through this and saw the justifications were there for the budget, and we just learned a few minutes ago from Mr. Bower who explained how the bonded items process works. The program was for two years not one, and that they will get a favorable rate, and combining projects to do things in a positive manner. We presented this to the Executive Committee last Friday. A motion was made to accept this report, and it was seconded. It was asked at this time if there was any questions. Representative Keans said that she had a problem with bonding computers, and I would like to have somebody address that. It was asked what she was looking at, and she said that she was looking at Administration, Personnel Computers, etc. Administrator Bower said that these were not bonded items. These were cash items. The bonded items were below that line. Mr. Bower went on to say that we engaged in an interesting plan with Gateway Computers. We are actually going to be leasing computers from Gateway for \$29 a month, and they replace them after three years, and they maintain them during that time period. When the lease period is over, we can either sell them outright or they will take them back as a trade. The nice part about it is basically a little over \$1000, but it is fully maintained, and we get the latest technology. Also there is a value to them at the end of the three years. There were no questions or comments. Chairman Callaghan asked all those in favor of the motion to accept the report. The motion was passed.

Chairman Callaghan asked for the report and recommendation of the Contracted Social Service Agencies, which was presented by Representative Brown. Representative Brown went on to say that the Subcommittee convened with all members present. They spent the entire day meeting with every agency, and they really worked hard. Some members of this Delegation want to eliminate all contracted services in order to save \$400,000.00. They have also stated that none of these agencies would dry up and blow away if they were not funded. So in emphasis of this I make this assessment; since there are no non-profit agencies to do homemaker services in Dover, 21 more elderly families would be on the waiting list for Riverside Rest Home and go without any help in the meantime if Homemakers was not funded. The Strafford County Meals on Wheels stated that thanks to the County funding in the amount of \$40,000.00 they were able to serve and additional 8,475 meals, which enabled them to reach out to rural areas, which have no services available, and to serve a hot nutritious meal to the low-income elderly population. The program assisted in keeping the elderly in their homes, lessening the impact on the healthcare system. Meals on Wheels will continue to deliver meals, but without County funding, they will have to forfeit the Farmington site, discontinue one full delivery, and add to the existing waiting list, which by the end of this year could be an additional 300 people. The Community Action in Rochester provided 837 families with fuel assistance and helped 104 Welfare recipients to get jobs. If not for the County help the Out Reach Offices in Rochester, Milton, and Farmington would close. Cutting these services would result in higher economic and human cost, and over burden welfare budgets in the respective communities.

Representative Brown went on to say that in my 15-years on this Delegation, last year was the first year that the Humane Society had asked for money. They asked for \$60,000.00 last year. The Delegation approved \$30,000.00 and they only spent \$19,000.00. They have over \$350,000.00 in stocks and bonds and it was suggested to the Director that they could take half that money, build a building and then if it needed to be expanded that they could do more fund raising to do that. The director told the whole committee that what she wanted to do was build a million dollar facility, and in these bad times we should not be using taxpayers money for this purpose. Rochester and Barrington do not contract with the Humane Society they have their own private Vet. Milton gives nearly \$5,000.00 and Dover gives \$15,000.00 for the contract for a year. Last year Dover's animal control officer brought 100 animals to the shelter, 75 dogs, and 25 cats. 65 of those animals were fortunate to be retrieved by their owners, but they also had to pay a retrieving fee. Representative Brown said that it has always been my feeling that we as human beings have an obligation to provide services for those less fortunate or those who can't care for themselves. Everything has a price for the necessities of life. Sometimes we just have to choose. It is not always what we want but what we need to do to survive. So I say to all of you, which one are you willing to pay for, and I ask you please join with the unanimous vote of the Subcommittee and approve the \$411,640.00 for those we need to care for. Representative Johnson made a motion to increase line for Homemakers of Strafford County from \$40,000.00 to \$60,000.00, it was seconded. Representative Johnson went on to say that we just heard a very passionate speech by Representative Brown about the elderly. I don't know how many of you are familiar with the Homemakers, and if you are not, it would be good to get familiar with the Homemakers. That \$60,000.00 will take care of 50 people in their homes versus 1 1/2 people in the nursing home for a year. \$60,000.00 may mean keeping 20 people out of a rest home, and I think that this is a pretty important investment. Representative Berube went on to say Somersworth's welfare costs have more than tripled because of down shifting. I would like to point out that many of these help the communities. If they were to cut those agencies right now, do you know where they appear? We can't blame these poor people. They end up at the welfare office of the city. So on one side your saving and on the other side your down

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

shifting. So you have to be very careful where we cut these areas, because if we start cutting these areas, it will come back to the city and your going to pay, and sometimes it can be done more economically at the County level.

Representative Brown had one additional comment. There are two things that I want to tell you. Number 1 the Homemakers did not approach us, we (the commissioners) approached them. The other news is that the Dover Adult Learning Center will be changing its name to the Dover Adult Learning Center of Strafford County. Representative Keans said that as she understands it the Homemakers actually have a contract with county that they can only be reimbursed for services that were rendered, and that last year they only supplied \$26,000.00 worth of services to the County. Administrator Bower stated that this was all the money that we had. Representative Keans asked if you had more money you may in fact have contracted more services. Administrator Bower replied Absolutely. In fact we actually tried to find more money to continue the services. This all happened because Wentworth Douglas went to become a homecare agency for profit and stopped doing Homemaker Services, unless that Homemaker Service was tied to some more profitable service that they were providing. So when they stopped doing Homemaker Services we had no provider for Dover. It was logistically impossible for the rural district VNA to take over Dover. So the Commissioners asked me to approach Homemakers to see if they would cover the Dover Area.

Representative Grassie said that the Executive Director of Homemakers explained it to her that they agreed to pick up the Wentworth Douglas clients, and the County gave \$20,000.00 to pick up those clients and she thought that this would be enough. This was for half a year. This was just in June for the rest of the year. She came back to the County because she ran out of money, and the county gave her another \$6,700.00 which was all we had. So in her estimation, this year, she would need \$60,000.00 to do the full year. The Subcommittee voted to appropriate \$40,000.00, and that is why Representative Johnson has requested the \$20,000.00 increase. To allow them to do the job for the whole year.

It was asked if Administrator Bower could give us a cost benefit on the Homemakers verses going into the nursing home. Administrator Bower said that Representative Johnson was certainly correct. He went on to say that he thought that not every single person that gets Homemaker Services would qualify to go into the nursing home. I think what Homemaker Services do is to keep people out of the nursing home by ensuring they are not nutritionally deprived, and assisting them in maintaining their household, which could translate to health problems. For those people it is an ideal situation because it helps them. You are not eligible for a nursing home because you can't maintain your house and you can't do your laundry, this is not in and of itself a reason. However, that frequently translate to healthcare issues. Also, we have some people that have some minor health care problems, have a supportive family, and with the combination of Homemakers and a supportive family some people can stay at home. It is the County's goal to keep people at home even though we run a nursing home. We have huge waiting list for people to come to Riverside Rest Home now.

Representative Easson said that considering that he was on the subcommittee perhaps he can shed some light as to how we arrived at a \$40,000.00 figure. We spent all day and we heard a lot of compelling reasons from the various agencies as to why they were requesting what they requested. As a guiding principal the subcommittee felt that it was incumbent upon us to try to come in at or slightly below the Commissioners recommendation because if you look at the subcommittee report the agencies were requesting \$504,000.00 but the Commissioners were recommending level funding from 2002 which was \$413,000.00. We did hear what they were saying about Wentworth Douglas Hospital stopping that service, and if you notice, Homemakers is the one agency that received the biggest increase based on the Subcommittee recommendation. A lot of these other agencies are either level funded or slightly reduced funding by the subcommittee recommendation. We felt that \$40,000.00 was a good compromise number, and you also have to realize that money that they get from the County is just a small portion of their budget.

Chairman Callaghan said that it was amended and seconded, so now we are going to vote. All those in favor of the amendment as proposed by Representative Johnson for the Homemakers Budget. The amendment passed.

Representative Vachon asked that we appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for the Cocheco Valley Humane Society and that that appropriation be a non-lapsing appropriation for a period of two years. The motion was second. He also thought that it was only fair that they be given the opportunity to spend the rest of the money. They did ask for \$30,000.00 for operating cost for this year, and we gave them nothing, and I think that this is wrong, and we are giving the wrong message, and that we should give them a chance to spend \$20,000.00 plus the additional \$10,000.00 that we are asking for, and to give them two years to spend it.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Representative Easson asked if he could point out that the budget for the Humane Society is a lot more than \$30,000.00. \$10,000.00 would just be a drop in the bucket. Might I also point out that every Saturday the Humane Society holds a fund raiser in the form of BINGO at the Tri City Bingo Hall, and I don't see why we need to be making this kind of charitable donation at the expense of the taxpayer, especially since we just added another \$20,000.00 through Representative Johnson's amendment. So, I oppose your amendment.

Representative Spang suggested that we give them an appropriation we want them to be as efficient as possible, but they are being punished for turning back money. What does that say next time, next time they pad their budget like crazy so that they will be able to hold on to what was appropriated. Instead what we are doing is punishing them for being efficient. Now perhaps it was just a matter of the timing of the accounting that they didn't happen to get all of their expenses in on time. I think that we ought to at least allow them to spend down what we gave them.

Representative Easson stated that in the subcommittee we did not feel that we punishing the Humane Society for not spending their money, we just felt that considering the budget constraints, and the fact that the proposed budget as is will result in a 5% property tax increase, we felt that any Social Service money should be spent on people not necessarily animals.

Chairman Callaghan asked for a vote at this time and the amendment failed.

Representative Wall had a question for Administrator Ray Bower. She stated that she was just a little confused with the different motions and going back to the Homemakers where we just amended to add another \$20,000.00. When I look at this budget that we had, and I see we have an unpaid balance of \$15,467.20, does this help cover that \$20,000.00?

Administrator Bower replied no. Unless there is a specific vote of the Delegation, all monies at years end lapses to the fund balance, which the Commissioners then use as surplus in the next year. Therefore, if Representative Vachon's motion had passed, that money specifically appropriated by the Delegation for a two-year period would not lapse but would continue into the second year. But short of the specific motion we are an annual budget, so everything that is not spent or over on the revenue side of it simply lapses to surplus, not to be spent by anyone, the Commissioners can't spend it, no one can spend it, it lapses into Surplus.

Chairman Callaghan asked for all those in favor of the motion for Contracted Services for \$431,640.00. A vote was taken and the motion was passed. Chairman Callaghan went to the next item on the agenda, which was for a motion for roll call on *Total Expenditure of \$36,158,014.00. There was a motion for this, the motion was seconded and then a roll call vote was taken, and it was passed. (20-4)

Administrator Bower said that the next motion was three items together, which included:

*Total Revenue	\$ 19,299,511.00
Surplus	\$ 630,000.00
Amount to be raised by taxes	\$ 16,228,503.00

This includes the amendment. We have a motion, and it was seconded. It was asked at this time if there were any questions. A roll call vote was taken, and it was passed. (23-1).

The last item on this part of the agenda was for:

*Capital Improvement Bond:	\$2,012,387.00
----------------------------	----------------

Chairman Callaghan said that a motion was made and asked for a second. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed. (19-5).

Chairman Callaghan said the next item on the agenda was for the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2002, organizational meeting of December 18, 2002, and January 29, 2003 Public Hearing. A motion was made and it was seconded.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Representative Wall had a concern with the minutes of the meeting of January 29th, when Joe McCann (on the second page of the minutes), said that he was here at the request of the Board of Selectman of Madbury and he was not. He said that he was a Deputy Police Chief in Madbury, and I clarified that afterwards. He also said that he was not here for the Board of Selectman.

Representative Keans said that the problem is that you cannot correct the minutes in that fashion. If he lied that is his problem.

Representative Wall, said that he didn't say that. He said that he lived in Strafford and that is not here. He then went on to say, and I believe that this is accurate, and if someone did a recording that night, I would like to know that because, I asked him if the selectmen sent you? He said no. This will be looked in to. There was an amendment made along with a motion, but it was decided that they would have to wait on that so, a vote was taken only on the minutes of December 11, and December 18th. All were in favor and the minutes passed.

Chairman Callaghan said the next item on the agenda was other business, which may legally come before the Delegation. The concern about the contaminated soil came up, and where we stood on this issue.

Commissioner Maglaras went over this issue as to where we stood, and how it was coming along. He went on to say that we are going to excavate beyond what was normally required because we wanted to eliminate all the pollution. We are still going to do that. He said that the state couldn't pay for all of it. He said in terms of dollars how much this would cost, he could not say as of yet, but he did say that it could be significant. He said that what he will try to do with the County Delegation is that as soon as this process moves forward 663, and the other issues that I mentioned to you, I will travel to Concord, and as soon as I know some of this information, I will call for a meeting of the Strafford County Delegation to lay out three or four of those alternatives that I discussed already with you. I will try to do that if it is physically possible based on the dynamics.

Representative Newton suggested maybe getting a smaller subcommittee to work with the Commissioners, and we may be able to make a difference. I would be happy to be on that committee.

Commissioner Maglaras said that he would like to bring one more thing to the attention of the Delegation. He said that as he reported to the Executive Committee on behalf of my colleagues, is that we are trying the best that we can to keep the construction of the jail on schedule and on track. Because of the harsh winter we are now sitting down hopefully to talk about the lost time that has taken place as a result of the cold winter and the sub-zero temperatures and the wind chill factor being as cold as 30-below. It is very difficult to lay concrete and do things at 30 degrees below weather. I need to bring that to your attention as we are working on this right now, and probably by the time I have to call you back I will have some specific answers to what the impact that has been in terms of time. Hopefully we will have a warm summer and warm spring we may be able to make up some of that time lost as a result of the weather. There may need to be an adjustment because of this, and I am not sure at this time as to how much.

Chairman Callaghan at this time asked all those in favor of adjournment, and at this time the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Grassie, Clerk
Strafford County Delegation

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

STRAFFORD COUNTY DELEGATION MINUTES OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2003

Chairman Callaghan called the Informational Meeting of the Strafford County Delegation to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present:

PRESENT: Bemis, Berube, Brown, Callaghan, Cataldo, Creteau, Dunlap, Hofeman, Hollinger, Keans, Knowles, Pelletier, Rous, Snyder, Vachon, Wall, and Woods (17 of 37).

Also present were Commissioners Maglaras, Chagnon, and Schroeder, County Administrator Raymond Bower, Administrative Assistant Jean Miccolo, and Brad Morin, Fosters Daily Democrat.

Chairman Callaghan noted that the Commissioners had called the meeting in order to update the Delegation on Senate Bill 409 and House Bill 663.

Commissioner Maglaras gave a detailed update on the status of Senate Bill 409 and House Bill 663 for the Delegation members present. Several handouts were distributed (attached), indicating the effect of these bills on the County and the options available to the County.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer period.

Chairman Callaghan at this time asked all those in favor of adjournment, and at this time the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Grassie, Clerk
Strafford County Delegation

STRAFFORD COUNTY DELEGATION MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING OF JUNE 24, 2003

Acting Chairman Keans called the Public Meeting of the Strafford County Delegation to order during the lunch break for the House in Legislative Office Building Room 208, in Concord, New Hampshire. Chairman Keans noted that since the Delegation had already said the pledge of allegiance to the flag and had a moment of silence, this would be waived for the meeting. Clerk Grassie read the Notice of the Public Hearing and Meeting and called the roll, which showed the following members present:

PRESENT: Albert, Bemis, Berube, Bickford, Brown, Cataldo, Creteau, Dunlap, Grassie, Harrington, Heon, Hofeman, Johnson, Kaen, Keans, Knowles, Miller, Musler, Newton, Rollo, Rous, Schmidt, Snyder, Spang, Twombly, Vachon, Wall and Woods (28 of 37).

EXCUSED: Callaghan and Pelletier (2).

ABSENT: Campbell, Easson, Hollinger, Scott, Smith, Kathleen Taylor, and Kathrine Taylor (7).

Also present were Commissioners Maglaras and County Administrator Raymond Bower.

Acting Chairman Keans opened the meeting with a Hearing on the Bonded Items. She asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the capital improvement projects and the request for a Bond in the amount of \$2,012,387. The public hearing was closed after three (3) requests for comments and/or questions from the public on the Bonded Items were made. Acting Chairman Keans opened the Delegation Meeting.

Representative Brown motioned that the Delegation authorize the County to borrow up to \$2,012,387 in Bonds for the capital improvements for various capital items at the Justice and Administration Building, the Sheriff's Department, the House of Corrections, and Riverside Rest Home, to include: furniture, fixtures, and equipment, roofing projects, paving

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

projects, energy and pollution control projects, computer projects, elevator upgrades/replacements, various vehicle replacements, building improvements, and communications systems. Representative Knowles seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 23 to 5, as follows:

YEAS: Bemis, Berube, Bickford, Brown, Cataldo, Creteau, Dunlap, Grassie, Heon, Hofeman, Johnson, Kaen, Keans, Knowles, Miller, Musler, Rollo, Rous, Schmidt, Snyder, Spang, Vachon, and Wall (23)

NAYS: Albert, Harrington, Newton, Twombly, and Woods (5).

Chairman Keans asked if there was any further discussion regarding the Capital Improvement Bond. There being none, she asked if anyone wished to discuss any other business before the Delegation.

Chairman Keans asked Commission Chairman Maglaras to speak on a couple of House Bills that were about to be voted on by the House, these being House Bill 2 and House Bill 663, which relates to the relationship between the County and the State on Medicaid. House Bill 663 continues the County and State relationship for one year. If this bill does not pass, the County's obligation to fund Medicaid ceases as of June 30. This would be Statewide and average about \$60,000,000, about \$5,000,000 of this from Strafford County. The Governor has threatened to veto HB 663 because of a portion he did not like. That portion deals with the bed tax, this being 6% of the assessment fee that will be matched with Federal funds in order raise more money for nursing homes State wide. There is a meeting scheduled with the Governor upon conclusion of this meeting to discuss this matter. The Governor is concerned about the additional "tax" instituted by the bill. The Governor has indicated that he is willing to make the Counties whole by using the Tobacco Settlement; however, this remains to be seen based on the actions of the Legislature.

This affects Strafford County in the following way, and the Legislature will be asked to take action on this issue, or not take action, in the near future. Based on the actions taken by the Legislature on this bill later on this day, a couple of things will occur. The PSP money was paid back to the Feds in March and the County's will have to make this money up in the budget. If HB 663 passes, and depending on what the Governor does with it after that, will determine what will happen with the Delegation as relates to existing County budget. There are many other things in the State budget that affect County budget. The FMAP changes the distribution between the States and the Federal government in regards to Medicaid, whereby the Feds will pay 53% of the costs, an increase from 50%, and the States pay 47%. However, the split between the State and the County is in question. Currently, that is a 50/50 split, meaning the State and the County each pay 25% of the 50% share of Medicaid costs. There is still discussion occurring as to how the 47% State portion will be shared by the Counties. There was an effort by some State Legislators to keep the County share at 25% of the total due, meaning the Feds share would be 53%, the Counties' share 25%, and the State's share 22%, thereby creating an increase in the County's portion and a decrease in the State's portion, instead of a decrease in both the State and Counties portions.

Commissioner Maglaras also reported on the status of the Drug Rebate program. The Counties are expecting receipt of approximately \$2.1 million statewide from these monies from pharmaceutical manufacturers. We are also anticipating an enhanced PSP payment, separate from the PSP money that was returned to the Feds. This is the normal round of PSP money to the Counties. So right now, the Counties are looking to receive money from the FMAP program, the Drug Rebate Program, HB 663, which includes the facility assessment of 6%, and the PSP money. The FMAP money is a 15-month adjustment, the provider or bed tax (now referred to as "facility assessment") is retroactive to April 1, 2003, and the Drug Rebate money is a one-time payment. Regarding the possible veto of HB 663 by the Governor, if this happens, the Counties obligation to pay their 25% of Elder Care expires June 30, 2003. The Counties have decided that they won't pay the bills as of this date, if the bill sunsets. If Senate Bill 409 sunsets without the Senate taking final action, a re-certification process will have to occur for all ten Counties in order for this not to be an unfunded mandate by the State. There are already several Boards of County Commissioners who have stated that they will reject this re-certification process, and this would force the State to come up with the money. All it takes it one Board of County Commissioners to say that they are not going to pay the Elder Care bills once 409 sunsets. This means that the Legislature would have to raise another \$60 million to pay the Counties' portion. The outcome of HB 663 will determine whether the Delegation will have to hold another meeting, possibly in September, to decide upon a supplemental budget for the County. The best deal the Counties could work out with the leadership in Concord was to create the provider "tax" or facilities assessment. If 409 sunsets, the State would still continue to pay its 25% of the Medicaid/Medicare split to the Feds, and the Feds would have a shortfall of 25% that the Counties would no longer be obligated to pay. There was further discussion regarding this matter.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Commissioner Maglaras stated the generally, the Counties support House Bill 663 and the Committee of Conference's decision because it provides more revenue for the County and they have been working on this bill for over four months. Representative Harrington asked for some clarification of the ramifications of House Bill 663 and what happens if it is allowed the sunset on June 30, 2003. If no final action is made as of this date, Commissioner Maglaras stated that House Bill 663 was going to be voted on later in the day and requested that Delegation members vote in favor of it. Once HB 663 is voted on, if passed, it will go before the Governor for approval or denial. The Governor has threatened to veto this bill; however, at this point in time it is a wait and see situation. If vetoed by the Governor or rejected by the House, once again the County's obligation to pay for Elder Care services will cease to exist. If HB 663 passes the House and the Governor approves it, the Counties will continue to pay their 25% share of Elder Care services and a facility assessment will be put into place to create a new source of revenue for Counties and the State, with a match from the Feds. If the House passes HB663 and the Governor does not sign, it will go into effect as of June 30, 2003, midnight, without his signature.

The Counties will feel the benefit from the provider fee assessment through the Medicaid reimbursement system in October. The Delegation will be called back before October to adjust the County budget in order to approve receipt of these additional revenues, but also to pay back the PSP money. If the Delegation does not appropriate more money to pay back the PSP money or approve the additional funds from the assessment, there is no mechanism to pay the bills incurred by the County and there will be a serious problem. There is no way for the County to make up the lost revenues other than the assessment fee. This is, of course, all dependent upon the Governor and Leadership's response to these issues. The County cannot deficit spend and the Commissioners do not want to create a "hole" in the County budget that cannot be filled in October, i.e., have an expenditure that there are no funds to pay for.

Commissioner Maglaras asked the Delegation to vote for HB 663 and support the Committee of Conference's report. Depending upon the Governor and Leadership's response to these bills, a decision will have to be made regarding the County budget.

On another matter, Representative Harrington asked when the Commissioners anticipate a legal opinion regarding the controversy with the County Attorney. There are several differences between this case and a similar case that is on going in Rockingham County. One major difference is the set of rules that the Rockingham County Delegation has placed on the County Commissioners. More than likely, unless there is some dramatic decision made by the Supreme Court regarding the Rockingham County case, it will have little or no impact on the case in Strafford County. Commissioner Maglaras noted that this matter should not be discussed any further until a legal opinion has been rendered. There are no powers outlined in the constitution for County elected officials; it only states that they exist. Everything else is dealt with through statutes very clearly. The Legislature holds the authority over these elected officials.

Chairman Keans asked about the relationship with the Contractor building the new Jail. There was some discussion on the status of this matter. There has been no significant change since the report provided to the Delegation a couple of weeks ago, other than work is still progressing on the project and the process is moving along.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. Commissioner Maglaras thanked everyone for coming and apologized for any inconvenience.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Grassie, Clerk
Strafford County Delegation

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

STRAFFORD COUNTY DELEGATION MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING OF AUGUST 29, 2003

A public hearing and meeting of the Strafford County Delegation was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 29, 2003 by Chairman Callaghan in Superior Courtroom II, Second Floor, William A. Grimes Justice & Administration Building, County Farm Road, Dover, New Hampshire. Representative Albert led the pledge of allegiance to the flag, followed by a moment of silence. With a consensus of the Delegation, the reading of the notice of the meeting was waived. The roll call showed the following members present:

PRESENT: Albert, Bemis, Callaghan, Campbell, Cataldo, Creteau, Dunlap, Hofeman, Johnson, Kaen, Knowles, Miller, Newton, Pelletier, Rollo, Scott, Smith, Taylor, Kathleen, Taylor, Kathrine, Twombly, and Woods (21 of 37).

EXCUSED: Brown, Grassie, Musler, Snyder, and Wall (5).

ABSENT: Berube, Bickford, Easson, Harrington, Heon, Hollinger, Keans, Rous, Schmidt, Spang, and Vachon (12)

Also present were Commissioners Maglaras, Chagnon, and Schroeder, County Administrator Bower, Diane Legere, Finance Director, Jean Miccolo, Administrative Assistant, Gary Wulf, Negotiator, Rodney Woodill, Union Representative, Earle Goodwin of Dover, and Carol Riley, Barrington.

Chairman Callaghan opened the public hearing and invited members of the public to speak. He then asked Commissioner Maglaras to give an overview of the reason for the Supplemental Budget Request.

Commissioner Maglaras reviewed the reasons why the County is requesting a supplemental appropriation. The County received proportionate share pool monies over the past two years and this year the federal government determined that the money had to be repaid. Therefore, in March, the County repaid \$1.9 million to the federal government, leaving a deficit in the budget. The RSA's prohibit counties from operating with a deficit; therefore the Commissioners must request approval for a supplemental appropriation from the Delegation. The Commissioners have developed several new revenue sources, as well as increasing anticipated revenues in the Registry of Deeds. The Commissioners reported that the following sources of revenues were being recommended for approval by the Delegation to be received by the County to help reduce the deficit:

1. \$210,231 in Pharmaceutical Rebate funds
2. \$201,080 estimated additional Proportionate Share Pool (PSP) funds
3. \$500,000 increase in Registry of Deeds estimated revenues
4. \$192,000 in F-Map money

This totals \$1,103,311 in additional revenues, leaving a shortfall of \$826,095 to be requested in a Supplemental Budget.

Commissioner Maglaras then discussed the status of a proposed provider tax and how it would work if approved by Center for Medicaid/Medicare (CMS); however, at this time Feds are looking at the matter more closely. The State will have to go through a six-month appeal process in order to be able to collect this tax. Due to the uncertainty of the provider tax at this time, the Commissioners, and the Department of Revenue Administration, do not recommend using the anticipation of receiving these monies to offset the deficit. Commissioner Maglaras noted that House Bill 663 will sunset in June of 2004; if the provider tax has not been approved by then, the Legislature will have to develop a plan to fund the Medicaid program as the Counties will no longer support it.

Commissioner Maglaras stated that the Commissioners have two proposals to make to fund the deficit: The first is to increase the amount to be raised by taxation by \$826,095. The second is to use money set aside in this year's budget to pay the Jail bond interest payment that is due January 1, 2004 in the amount of \$857,000. The second option is not a financially prudent choice, however, according to DRA officials and the Finance Director.

Chairman Callaghan asked if any members of the public had any questions or comments. Carol Riley of Barrington thanked the Delegation and the Commissioners for their dedication to the process. She asked if the County operated on a

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

fiscal or calendar year basis. It is a calendar year. In response to a second question, County Administrator Bower explained the Elder Care line and how it works. Earle Goodwin of Dover asked if he could speak to the matter of the delay in completion of construction of the new Jail and the reported cost overages in the project. Chairman Callaghan responded that this was not on the agenda for discussion; however, Commissioner Maglaras offered to answer any questions he might have later in the meeting. Chairman Callaghan asked three more times if any members of the public wished to speak. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed; however, members of the public were invited to stay for the meeting. With that, the meeting of the Delegation was open.

Chairman Callaghan asked Commissioner Maglaras to respond to any questions on the supplemental budget request from the Delegation. There was some discussion regarding this matter. The reason the Commissioners did not call the Delegation back in June or sooner to request the supplemental appropriation was because at the time there were several options for additional revenues coming available, but the sources and amounts were not clarified until recently. There was some discussion regarding House Bill 663 and the impact on the State when it sunsets and the Counties no longer have a responsibility to pay a portion of Medicaid.

Representative Smith discussed House Bill 663 further. She noted that the best option might be to use the money allocated in the budget for the 2004 jail bond interest payment to offset the deficit. That way, the County would not have to increase taxes this year. However, the payment will have to be made via next year's budget and the additional tax would be felt later rather than sooner. Representative Woods asked about the provider tax on nursing home beds and when this might take effect. The response was probably not until next year, if then. She also asked if there was a possibility that the County could develop more revenue sources between now and the first of the year that could be used to offset the tax increase. Commissioner Maglaras responded that at this time, the Department of Revenue Administration is awaiting the decision of the Strafford County Delegation in order to set the tax rates for the cities and towns in the County. The cities and towns are awaiting these figures in order to send the tax bills and ascertain what they need to raise for taxes to pay the County tax. Commissioner Maglaras noted that he spoke to representatives from the Department of Revenue Administration, who advised against using the bond interest money to fill the deficit, that it would not be financially responsible.

There was further discussion on the matter. A few members of the Delegation noted that they needed to leave at this time. Representative Smith motioned to accept the following additional revenue sources totaling \$1,103,311, to replenish line item 4190.256, Elder Care due to the repayment of PSP funds in the amount of \$1,929,406, and to transfer \$826,095 from line item 9100.000, reserved for the payment of the Jail bond interest to line item 4190.256 (leaving a balance of \$30,905 in the bond interest account) to fully replenish the account due to the repayment of \$1,929,406:

1. \$210,231 in Pharmaceutical Rebate funds
2. \$201,080 estimated additional Proportionate Share Pool (PSP) funds
3. \$500,000 increase in Registry of Deeds estimated revenues
4. \$192,000 in F-Map money

Representative Katherine Taylor seconded the motion. Representative Newton asked for further discussion on the matter. He asked about the additional money in the Contingency line item. Commissioner Maglaras responded that these funds are set aside to fund the union settlement, which must be ratified by the Delegation in order to be effective. Representative Johnson moved the question. Representative Newton asked for further discussion. The motion to move the question carried on a voice vote. Representative Smith restated the motion. Representative Newton asked if the Chairman would call a recess so that the representatives could hold a caucus on the motion. Chairman Callaghan stated that there was a motion on the floor and it had been called, there would be no further discussion. At this point Representatives Cataldo, Campall, Newton, and Scott left the meeting. Representative Scott returned a few minutes later. There no longer being a quorum available, no vote could be taken and the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. Commissioner Maglaras requested that another meeting be held as soon as possible to rectify this matter, as well as to vote on ratification of the Union contract.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Miccolo

Administrative Assistant

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

STRAFFORD COUNTY DELEGATION MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

A public hearing and meeting of the Strafford County Delegation was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 2003 by Acting Chairman Keans in Superior Courtroom II, Second Floor, William A. Grimes Justice & Administration Building, County Farm Road, Dover, New Hampshire. Representative Grassie led the pledge of allegiance to the flag, followed by a moment of silence, with special thoughts for Chairman Frank Callaghan, who had undergone quadruple bypass heart surgery this morning. The Clerk then read the notice of the meeting and called the roll. The roll call showed the following members present:

PRESENT: Albert, Berube, Bickford, Brown, Cataldo, Creteau, Easson, Grassie, Heon, Hofeman, Hollinger, Johnson, Kaen, Keans, Knowles, Musler, Newton, Pelletier, Rollo, Rous, Schmidt, Scott, Snyder, Taylor, Kathleen, Twombly, Vachon, Wall, and Woods (28 of 37).

EXCUSED: Callaghan, Dunlap, Miller, Smith, and Kathrine Taylor (5).

ABSENT: Bemis, Campbell, Harrington, and Spang (4)

Also present were Commissioners Maglaras, Chagnon, and Schroeder, County Administrator Bower, Jean Miccolo, Administrative Assistant, Ken Robichaud, Administrator's Assistant, County Attorney Janice Rundles, Cubbi Lirrette, Domestic Violence Unit, Sheriff Wayne Estes, Register of Deeds Leo Lessard, Director of Maintenance Jim Gaunya, Gary Wulf, Negotiator, Rodney Woodill, Union Representative, Earle Goodwin of Dover, Elizabeth Fisher, Claudette Boutin, Chief Executive Officer, Dan Raizes, Board Member, of The Homemakers of Strafford County, and Brian DeKoning, *Fosters Daily Democrat*.

Acting Chairman Keans opened the public hearing and asked if any members of the public had any questions or comments on the Supplemental Budget Appropriation request or any other matters before the Delegation this evening. There being no response, Acting Chairman Keans asked twice more for questions and/or comments from the public. There being none, she declared the public hearing closed and opened the public meeting of the Delegation.

Representative Berube motioned to take up Agenda Items 10, 11, 12 first in order to enable persons making presentations from the appropriate agencies or offices to be heard before the Delegation took up the business of the Supplemental Budget. The motion was seconded by Representative Wall and approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Therefore, the first item on the agenda to be discussed was No. 12, Authorization for Strafford County Commissioners to apply for, receive, and disburse a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Homemakers of Strafford County. Representative Berube motioned to authorize the Strafford County Commissioners to apply for, receive, and disburse a Community Development Block Grant for the Homemakers of Strafford County in the amount of \$1,000,000. Representative Wall seconded the motion. Acting Chairman Keans invited Beth Fisher from the Homemakers of Strafford County to speak to the motion.

Beth Fisher introduced herself, Chief Executive Officer Claudette Boutin, and Board Member Don Raizes, board member for the Homemakers of Strafford County to the Delegation. She thanked the Commissioners and the Delegation for giving the Homemakers the opportunity to meet with them and make a presentation in regards to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application they would like to submit to the State. Ms. Fisher asked for the Delegation's approval to authorize the Commissioners to sponsor the project application to the State. The Commissioners will then generate a letter of support for the project, which will be included in the grant application. Acting Chairman Keans asked if there were any questions regarding this matter. Representative Newton noted that he and Representative Brown have been following this project via the Rochester Planning Board and it is an excellent concept and the money will be well spent. Representative Berube agreed. Representative Vachon asked about the gift of the land and how the match with the private developer will work. Ms. Fisher responded that the project and the agreement with the developer are all within the scope of the wishes of Ms. Champlin, the person who donated the land to Homemakers. The housing units on the property will be taxable by the City. Ms. Fisher then invited anyone wishing further information or a tour of the property to stop by the Homemakers offices and she will be happy to provide more details on the project. She also had the plans available for anyone wishing to view them. The Executive Committee heard a report from Ms. Fisher during its meeting.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

that was held before the Delegation meeting and the consensus was to endorse the project. The motion to authorize the Commissioners to apply for, receive, and disburse the CDBG grant for the Homemakers of Strafford County in the amount of \$1,000,000 was called and unanimously accepted on a voice vote of the Delegation. Acting Chairman Keans recommended that a roll call on the motion for the record, which showed the following results:

YEAS: Albert, Berube, Bickford, Brown, Cataldo, Creteau, Easson, Grassie, Heon, Hofeman, Hollinger, Johnson, Kaen, Keans, Knowles, Musler, Newton, Pelletier, Rollo, Rous, Schmidt, Scott, Snyder, Taylor, Kathleen, Twombly, Vachon, Wall, and Woods (28 of 28).

NAYS: None

The next item to be discussed on the agenda was item No. 10, Acceptance of the Union Contract. Acting Chairman Keans invited Gary Wulf, the negotiator for the County, to speak to this issue. Mr. Wulf gave a brief outline of the contract, which has been agreed to by the Commissioners and the State Employees Association (SEA), and ratified by the members of the Union and the Commissioners. It was noted that Mr. Wulf also made this presentation before the Executive Committee, which approved the contract and recommended consideration by the Full Delegation for ratification. The funds for the settlement are within the parameters set forth by the Commissioners and have been funded in the 2003 budget via the Contingency and health insurance line items. No additional appropriation is necessary to fund the contract. The contract is for the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004. The contract took 35 hours less than one year to agree on. It includes a three percent (3%) increase in wages for Union employees, and a health insurance subsidy increase equaling 1.4% in wages, for a total benefit and wage increase cost of 4.4%. The County also reached agreement on three (3) of its bargaining points, those being:

1. No more pyramiding of overtime;
2. When an employee transfers to another position and uses their seniority to get that position, they must wait ninety (90) days before they can use their seniority to transfer to another position;
3. Clarification of the section on payment of time and one-half for holidays.

He noted that in exchange for the 3% increase in raises, there would be no steps this year. The steps average about 2.5% an hour wage increase. Mr. Wulf also stated that the Federal average wage increase for working persons was 4.2%, so the 4.4% agreed to by the County is in line with the national average.

There was some discussion regarding this matter. Representative Scott motioned to decrease the contract agreement to 1.5% total instead of 4.4%. Acting Chairman Keans declared that this motion was out of order, but opened it to discussion. Representative Brown stated that although she believes the County and the Union did an excellent job, the length of the negotiations was pathetic and abominable, especially since the contract was only renewed for one year. Mr. Wulf noted that during the last few minutes of the negotiations, a second year contract was "on the table." The Union made an offer that would increase wages and benefits by 7.9% for the second year of the contract, if agreed to. This number was not agreeable to the County and, therefore a second year agreement was not reached.

There was further discussion. Administrator Bower pointed out that staffing at Riverside Rest Home was at a critical low point and the finalization of the negotiations may be helpful in attracting new employees, especially due to the benefit package offered at the County. Right now, we are covering open positions through the nursing pool, which is much more expensive than using County employees. A cost benefit analysis is currently being conducted to evaluate the use of the pools versus employees, and whether increasing the wages of employees in order to attract more help would be more beneficial than continuing to rely on the nursing pool. There are approximately 320 County non-management employees covered by the bargaining unit. Those employees work at the Rest Home and the Department of Corrections. There was further discussion regarding the contract with the Union.

Representative Schmidt motioned to ratify the one-year agreement with the Union, as outlined by Mr. Wulf and the Commissioners. Seconded by Representative Kaen. Representative Scott amended the motion by reducing the amount of the wage increase to 1.5%. Mr. Wulf explained that the Delegation has the authority to ratify or reject the contract in its entirety as presented; they cannot make changes to the body of the contract. If the Delegation votes to reject the contract, negotiations would begin all over again. Acting Chairman Keans did not accept the amendment to the motion, as it was out of order.

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Representative Bickford stated that he is in favor of the contract as it is fair. The total cost of the contract package for one year is \$430,000, inclusive of the health insurance benefit. The cost of the wage portion of the contract is included in the current budget under the Contingency and health insurance line items. Administrator Bower pointed out that the salaries of those employees working at Riverside Rest Home is partially reimbursable through Medicaid. Approximately 65% of the settlement cost is for the operation of the rest home; 80% of this amount is reimbursable from Medicaid. There was further discussion regarding the motion. Representative Knowles called the question. A roll call on the original motion to ratify the Union contract was taken, with the following results:

YEAS: Berube, Bickford, Brown, Cataldo, Creteau, Grassie, Heon, Hofeman, Johnson, Kaen, Keans, Knowles, Musler, Pelletier, Rollo, Rous, Schmidt, Snyder, Taylor, Twombly, Vachon, Wall, and Woods (23).

NAYS: Albert, Easson, Hollinger, Newton, and Scott (5).

Motion passed 23 to 5.

The next item to be discussed on the agenda was item No. 11, Acceptance of the Domestic Violence Grant in the amount of \$367,744. County Attorney Rundles gave a brief presentation regarding this grant and the benefits that the County has received and will receive from the Domestic Violence Unit. The County funded this program this year; an application for funding through the Violence Against Women Office was submitted and approved for the period August 1, 2003 to July 31, 2005. A grant for video conferencing equipment has also been submitted and approved. The amount of the VAWA grant is \$367,744 for a two-year period. There was discussion regarding the DV program.

Representative Wall motioned to accept the Domestic Violence Grant in the amount of \$367,744; Representative Berube seconded the motion. Acting Chairman Keans asked if there was any further discussion regarding this matter. There being none, a roll call was taken on the motion, which had the following results:

YEAS: Albert, Berube, Cataldo, Creteau, Easson, Grassie, Hofeman, Hollinger, Kaen, Keans, Knowles, Musler, Newton, Pelletier, Rollo, Rous, Schmidt, Scott, Snyder, Taylor, Twombly, Vachon, Wall and Woods (24)

NAYS: Bickford, Brown, and Heon (3).

ABSENT: Johnson

Motion passed 24 to 3.

The next item on the agenda to be discussed was the supplemental budget appropriation. The Commissioners reviewed the need for a supplemental budget appropriation to reimburse the Elder Care line item for monies used to repay the Federal Proportionate Share Pool funds last March. The deficit is in the amount of \$1,929,406, the amount that was repaid. The Commissioners presented the Delegation with several new or additional funding sources totaling \$1,153,311, leaving a \$776,095 deficit. Commissioner Maglaras reviewed the revenue sources for the Delegation, as follows:

1. \$210,231 in Pharmaceutical Rebate funds
2. \$201,080 estimated additional Proportionate Share Pool (PSP) funds
3. \$500,000 increase in Registry of Deeds estimated revenues
4. \$242,000 in F-Map money (\$50,000 more than was in the notice of the meeting)

Commissioner Maglaras explained each of these additional revenue sources in detail and stated that the money is either "in hand" now or will be very shortly. We have received the pharmaceutical rebate funds; the extra Proportionate Share Pool (PSP) money has been received for this year, although the 2003 allotment has yet to be received; the Registry of Deeds has nearly met the estimated total revenues for the year at the end of August, so the additional \$500,000 proposed is a fair estimate for the rest of the year; the F-Map money will be \$242,000, an increase of \$50,000 since the last Delegation meeting (NOTE: The County has since received the first quarter payment in the amount of \$81,614).

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Commissioner Maglaras then discussed the provider, or "bed" tax and how it will work if approved by CMS. This would mean \$1.3 million in annual revenues to the County. However, even if approved by CMS, the County will probably not receive these funds for at least another six months.

Commissioner Maglaras stated that \$857,000 has been included in the 2003 budget to pay for the jail bond interest payment which is due January 1, 2004. Since this is actually a 2004 expense, the money set aside for this could be used to fill the deficit; however, the County would then have to borrow in anticipation of taxes for next year earlier in order to make this payment on time. The other alternative is to increase the amount to be raised by taxation by \$776,095; the bottom line is basically either pay now or pay later. The Commissioners met with Department of Revenue Administration officials two weeks ago. It was their opinion that it would not be fiscally responsible to borrow money from the bond interest line to pay back the Elder Care line; it would be in the County's best interest to approve a supplemental budget this year.

There was much discussion and debate regarding this matter. Representative Woods suggested that revenues be inflated in order to meet the deficit, as there is still a chance that we could get the provider tax monies. She also asked Register of Deeds Lessard if he thought the Registry would earn an additional \$100,000 on top of the \$500,000 already estimated. Register Lessard stated that he believed it would be possible, but if it didn't, and the Delegation increased estimated revenues by this amount, to please not hold it against him. Representative Woods also suggested that the budget be revisited in order to ascertain where money could be saved. Commissioner Maglaras noted that this would be difficult to do as three quarters of the year have already passed.

Commissioner Maglaras noted that should the County receive the provider tax, whether it is this year or next year, it would be used to totally offset the tax rate. In response to a question, Commissioner Maglaras stated that once the Jail opens and begins taking more boarders, the County would be in a much better financial position. There was some discussion regarding the jail, construction, staffing, and boarders. Basically, although it will cost more to operate the new jail facility, this increase will be more than offset by additional revenues from boarders. The U.S. Marshall's office has contacted the County several times to ensure that space will be available to them when the jail opens.

Representative Johnson motioned to accept the additional revenues as presented to the Delegation, with the increase in the F-Map funds, for a total of \$1,153,311 in additional revenues, increasing revenues from \$19,299,511 to \$20,452,822. Representative Berube seconded the motion. Representative Woods motioned to amend the motion to increase the amount of additional revenues to \$1,253,311, by increasing the additional estimated Deeds income by \$100,000, from \$500,000 to \$600,000. There was some discussion on this proposed amendment. Representative Newton seconded the amendment to the motion.

Representative Newton asked for a round of applause for Register of Deeds Lessard. Register Lessard asked that the credit be given to his entire staff, as they work very hard and he is very proud of their efforts. The Delegation then gave a round of applause for the Registry of Deeds.

Acting Chairman Keans asked for a show of hands in favor of the amendment to the motion. The result was 12 in favor, 15 against, the motion to amend the motion failed. The original motion to increase estimated revenues by \$1,153,311, from \$19,299,511 to \$20,452,822 was called. The motion passed on a roll call vote, as follows:

YEAS: Berube, Bickford, Brown, Cataldo, Creteau, Easson, Grassie, Heon, Hofeman, Hollinger, Johnson, Kaen, Keans, Knowles, Musler, Newton, Pelletier, Rollo, Rous, Schmidt, Scott, Snyder, Taylor, Twombly, Vachon, Wall and Woods (27).

NAYS: Albert (1).

Motion passed 27 to 1.

There was further discussion on raising taxes this year. Representative Bickford motioned to increase the amount to be raised by taxation by \$776,095, from \$16,228,503 to \$17,004,598. Representative Twombly seconded the motion. Commissioner Maglaras noted that this would probably mean an increase of about eight cents on the dollar of County tax. Representative Bickford spoke to his motion, stating that he recommends we take a closer look at the budget in

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

January. Representative Twombly stated that we should raise the taxes now and not wait until next year, as we do not know what the economic picture will be then. A roll call was taken on the motion to increase taxes by \$776,095, from \$16,228,503 to \$17,004,598, with the following results:

YEAS: Albert, Berube, Bickford, Brown, Cataldo, Creteau, Grassie, Heon, Hofeman, Kaen, Keans, Knowles, Musler, Pelletier, Rollo, Rous, Schmidt, Snyder, Taylor, Twombly, Vachon, and Wall (22).

NAYS: Easson, Hollinger, Johnson, Newton, Scott, and Woods (6).

Motion passed 22 to 6.

Representative Wall motioned to allocate \$1,929,406 to Elder Care line item 4190.256 to replenish the account due to the repayment of the PSP funds and now in deficit and increase total expenditures from \$36,158,014 to \$38,087,420. Representative Knowles seconded the motion and it was approved on a roll call vote, as follows:

YEAS: Albert, Berube, Bickford, Brown, Cataldo, Creteau, Grassie, Heon, Hofeman, Kaen, Keans, Knowles, Musler, Pelletier, Rollo, Rous, Schmidt, Snyder, Taylor, Twombly, Vachon, and Wall (22).

NAYS: Easson, Hollinger, Johnson, Newton, Scott, and Woods (6).

Motion passed 22 to 6.

Representative Vachon motioned to authorize the County Commissioners to borrow in anticipation of taxes for the additional amount of \$776,095 in another round of tax anticipation notes. Representative Taylor seconded the motion and it was approved on a roll call vote, as follows:

YEAS: Albert, Berube, Bickford, Brown, Cataldo, Creteau, Grassie, Heon, Hofeman, Kaen, Keans, Knowles, Musler, Pelletier, Rollo, Rous, Schmidt, Snyder, Taylor, Twombly, Vachon, and Wall (22).

NAYS: Easson, Hollinger, Newton, Scott, and Woods (5).

ABSENT: Johnson

Motion passed 22 to 5.

There being no other business, Representative Pelletier motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Representative Snyder seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Grassie, Clerk
Strafford County Delegation

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

DIRECTORY

ADMINISTRATION

William A. Grimes Strafford County Justice & Administration Building
PO Box 799
Dover, New Hampshire 03820

Commissioners Office	742-1458
Personnel & Finance Office	742-1458
Human Services Department.....	742-1469
Information & Referral.....	742-8078
Family/Child Intervention Program.....	742-8078
Registry of Deeds	742-1741
County Attorney	749-2808
County Attorney Domestic Violence Unit	742-2706
Registry of Probate.....	742-2550
Superior Court.....	742-3065
UNH/Strafford County Cooperative Extension.....	749-4445
Conservation District.....	749-3037
Community Action Program	749-1334

**Strafford County Sheriff's Office
& Dispatch Center**

PO Box 1218
Dover, New Hampshire 03820742-4960

Strafford County House of Corrections/Jail

County Farm Crossroads
Dover, New Hampshire 03820742-3310

Strafford County Riverside Rest Home

30 County Farm Crossroads
Dover, New Hampshire 03820742-1348

STRAFFORD COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

STRAFFORD COUNTY CITIES AND TOWNS

Barrington Town Office 41 Province Lane, Barrington, NH 03825	664-9007
Dover City Hall 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820	743-6000
Durham Town Office 15 Newmarket Road, Durham, NH 03824	868-5571
Farmington Town Office 39 North Main Street, Farmington, NH 03835	755-2208
Lee Town Office Seven Mast Road, Lee, NH 03824	659-5414
Madbury Town Office 13 Town Hall Road, Madbury, NH 03820	742-5131
Middleton Town Office 200 Kings Highway, Middleton, NH 03887	473-2261
Milton Town Office Main Street, Box 310, Milton, NH 03851	652-4501
New Durham Town Office 4 Main St., PO Box 207, New Durham, NH 03855	859-2091
Rochester City Hall 31 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH 03867	332-1167
Rollinsford Town Office PO Box 309, Rollinsford, NH 03869	742-2510
Somersworth City Hall 157 Main Street, Somersworth, NH 03878	692-4262
Strafford Town Office Box 23, Ctr. Strafford, NH 03815	664-2192

